

VOL. 1 NO. 11 NOVEMBER, 1956

MONTHLY

SECURITY GAZETTE

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COVER PICTURE: *An industrial policeman receives
a call whilst on duty in the control centre of the
I.P.A.'s Birmingham Emergency Radio Scheme.
The service is described in a special article in this
issue.*

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November, 1959

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A Major Step

THIS month marks the inauguration of the Birmingham Emergency Radio Scheme by the Industrial Police Association. It is a development which will command the attention of the whole security movement both in this country and overseas, and the Council of the Midland Region is to be congratulated upon the initiative it has shown. Of course the scheme will take time to gather momentum. At this stage many firms will no doubt wait for evidence of its successful operation before joining in, even though, as so often happens, those who hesitate to join will suffer in the process. But there are two points deserving attention.

First, here is to be found further evidence of the ability of industrial firms to implement their own security measures. The new operation could not have been started without the support of certain managements conscious of their responsibilities and imaginative enough to take the opportunities now open of improving their security routines. Their example will lead to a wider membership, but concerns situated in the Birmingham area ought not to be backward in responding to the request for co-operation which the Association's Chairman makes in his article within. This aspect applies to the smaller firms just as much as to the more influential and to the banks as much as to companies. Industry as a whole is gradually awakening to modern methods of improving security whether in the crime or the fire fields, as indeed the correspondence we receive demonstrates. But if firms make use of the service as they should, in their own and the public interest, it can be expected to extend elsewhere and perhaps eventually be put on a national basis.

Secondly, the origin of the scheme lies in the ability of the Association to rise on a co-operative basis to the urgent needs of the crime situation. In a way it is remarkable that this pioneering effort can be made only a year or so after the Association's foundation. One reason is the support readily afforded by the police to their allied industrial police colleagues; and the welcome given to the scheme by the Birmingham City Force will surely be noticed by other Chief Constables. With police resources stretched so severely at the moment, it is to be hoped that the central authorities will not be slow to recognise the considerable advantages to be gained by liaison of this character. The scheme has its own part in the overall crime prevention campaign and should be seen as such.

Expectations of spectacular results would at the same time be out of place and there is no suggestion that the Association itself is looking for more than steady, long term benefits. But the knowledge of the system's operation and the sight of its implementation will be a daily deterrent to potential cash thieves. Indeed, its success will be measured more by a reduction in the number of attacks than by any dramatic conflicts with

the gangs. But this is the nature of effective security and good prevention: the possibility of failure against heavy odds is the criminal's chief fear. In its new organisation the Midland Region has created an excellent weapon. It will be looked upon as a major step forward in the Association's own progress and as a useful contribution to raising the nation's confidence in its protective forces.

Advice from the Bench

THE public as a whole will take no exception to the remarks passed by Lord Parker, the Lord Chief Justice, on measures he thinks advisable in the present crime position. As reported within, he has asserted that the restoration of a limited amount of corporal punishment would be an effective deterrent to criminals, at least to the younger element, and he has expressed his support for any move to improve the efficiency of the police forces, both in raising their scientific and technical standards, and in encouraging recruitment by better material conditions. His opinions have been followed automatically by hostility from certain quarters, but really the Lord Chief Justice has merely stated the obvious even if the stating of it is to some extent an act of courage. He was careful to point out that he was not in any way advocating the restoration of the cat, but only suggesting that it would be a good thing if magistrates had the power to order a limited infliction of punishment with the birch.

The difficulty is that Lord Parker has tended to make a confusing situation even more confusing. Magistrates complain rightly that on the one hand they are told what they ought to order and on the other hand are limited by direction in what they can order. Nor can it be expected that the force known vaguely as 'public opinion' will exert any real influence in solving this contradiction. Perhaps the core of the problem is that the Government is attempting to realise two distinct aims at once—the short term, that is, bringing together the powers of law and order to cope with the present crime wave, and the long term, the prevention of crime in the more distant future. Thus immediate needs are becoming confused with reformist and educational programmes.

This is a subject to which the new Parliament ought to turn its attention. An improvement in police efficiency will itself take months to accomplish, and the reformist policy will take years. But at the moment society can protect itself most effectively by giving the law ample authority to inflict deterrent punishment within the limits which our age considers humanitarian. Perhaps this is what the Lord Chief Justice is seeking, and certainly those who have to deal with criminals will find little to fault in his approach.

THE BRITISH ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

Relating Common Interests: Research Programme

By F. E. Camps, M.D.

The recent foundation in London of an academy of forensic sciences is a major step towards the advancement of British criminological studies. The contributor of this important article on its character and purpose is Reader in Forensic Medicine at London University and a Home Office pathologist.

THE foundation of the British Academy of Forensic Sciences, which will hold its first scientific meeting early next year, is not a sudden decision but represents the results of discussion and consideration over a considerable period together with a close study of similar organisations and various medico-legal systems. In fact, almost two years have passed since the councils of certain associations agreed to support such a project should it materialise. Finally, on Friday, 4th September, this year, a meeting was held at the Ciba Foundation at which were present representatives and members of various societies and organisations associated with Science, Medicine and the Law. After a very complete discussion, it was unanimously decided to form the Academy and a steering committee was formed to draw up the constitution and arrive at any other discussions that were considered necessary.

Objects of Foundation

It was, moreover, agreed that it was essential that the Academy should be widely represented both in membership and geographically, although in the early stages it was obvious that time and distance would preclude many from attending meetings of the committee. By its name and constitution, the Academy would not in any way replace societies or associations already in existence but afford the opportunity for members of such societies with varying interests to meet for discussion of the application of each speciality to a common problem. The objects of the Academy would be to encourage the study, maintain the standard, and advance the knowledge of Forensic Science.

It was hoped that this might be achieved by bringing together from time to time those actively engaged in the practice of the various branches of the forensic sciences such as chemistry, biology, immunology, graphology, ballistics, medicine, and pathology, and those who have to utilise forensic science in investigation (police), interpret it in court (lawyers and coroners) or use it in research (criminologists). Also it is hoped that scientists who are not at present practising, other than in an occasional consultative capacity such as when a special problem arises, will join the Academy. Finally, there are scientists who are highly specialised in various subjects both in academic and commercial life who can contribute suggestions for new lines of approach or research.

Structure of Academy

It is proposed that the scientific meetings shall consist of sessions in which members of all sections will take part, whilst in addition there will be section meetings dealing with matters of specialised interest. The Academy will consist of three main sections—Science, Medicine and Law—and membership will be obtained

by application to the committee of the particular section for which the applicant's speciality qualifies him. If accepted as suitable from the point of view of professional competency, the section will forward the name of the applicant to the Council of the Academy which will be composed of representatives of all sections for election. Each section may form sub-sections if sufficient members make application.

Thus the framework of the Academy will be as shown in the following diagram:

COUNCIL (Representatives of all Sections)

Main Section SCIENCE	MEDICINE	LAW
Sub-sections (examples) Chemistry Biology Physics Ballistics Graphology	(examples) Medicine (police surgeons) Pathology Psychiatry	(examples) Law Coroners Police Criminology

A member of the Academy will, of course, be entitled to attend the meeting of any section or sub-section, although the committee of each section or sub-section will be elected by its own members.

Exchange of Views

Quite clearly, membership of more than one sub-section will be possible and, in fact, often desirable. For example, a sub-section of graphology (questioned documents) might well include amongst its members not only specialists in the examination of handwriting, but also in the manufacture of ink and paper, whilst photography, which also plays a part, might contribute not only those who take photographs but also those who are doing research in processing and the like. That exchange of views even between those with specialist knowledge of subjects which appear to have little in common can be of value was well shown at a meeting held some time ago at the Ciba Foundation to discuss "Anoxia". The participants included amongst others, chest physicians, cardiologists, neurologists, physiologists, forensic pathologists, neuro-pathologists, anaesthetists, pediatricians, histochemists and aviation physiologists. Probably the most interesting observation was that very few of the various experts had ever met before. There seems to be little doubt that the same situation must exist amongst scientists, and a similar exchange of views would undoubtedly be of value to coroners, solicitors, members of the bar, and criminologists. If then, a common platform for discussion between science, medicine and the law, can be established both inside and outside the conference room, nothing but

benefit should be derived from it. Prejudice would be broken down and a much broader outlook result and thereby no accusation could be levelled that any one discipline was trying to be more influential than another.

Qualification

In order to achieve both the standard required and the diversity of specialities desirable, it was obvious that the definition of qualification for membership required considerable thought. Although not necessary in the phraseology of drafting, the qualification for membership of the Academy will be the same as should be required of any expert witness or member of a learned profession—a professional competency in his speciality and a proper standard of ethics.

Common Studies

The question has been asked as to whether the Academy might not be just "another society of which there are already too many." This has already been discussed but, indeed, there is no society which does, in fact, fulfil the purpose, and moreover, the name 'Academy' indicates that it is formed for the purpose of enabling members of different societies to meet and by blending together those who practise forensic science, those who teach and research in science, and who apply the results

in the cause of justice to achieve new ideas and better results, whilst at the same time affording assistance to those who are studying the essential problems involved in criminology. It is also hoped that it will stimulate research and the application of modern scientific advances to the solution of the many problems of forensic importance. To this end, it is proposed to establish a research committee.

It would be most ungracious to fail to acknowledge the important part played by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, from which many ideas have originated, in stimulating the foundation of the British Academy of Forensic Sciences. It was founded in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1948 on the invitation of the late Dr. R. B. H. Gradwohl, who called a meeting to consider what could be done to co-ordinate the various forensic sciences. The problems in a large country with laws differing in each State are not the same as those in this country. Moreover, the United States of America has a very limited background of traditional forensic medicine. There is, however, no difference in the ultimate objective to see that every advantage is taken of modern scientific knowledge in promoting the cause of justice and that it is presented in such a manner to the court that it can be understood and accepted as representing the truth.

Technical Information

Rescue Matting for Mud

Designed for life-saving and fire operations, a new form of matting is now being manufactured by W. F. Wilding, Ltd., of 81, Hyde Road, Manchester 12, which is particularly useful for work in estuaries and over mud-flats.

It was recently demonstrated by the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation which has ordered the matting for rescue emergencies in the Mersey estuary near Speke Airport. Carried in this demonstration by the specially constructed river rescue tender, it enabled "survivors" from an aircraft crash to reach safety in previously impossible conditions.



Firemen of the Speke rescue section handling the matting.

ELECTRONIC GUARD FOR BANKS

A new type of burglar detection system is now announced by Burgot Rentals, Ltd. Claimed by the makers to be of revolutionary character, it has been specially designed and developed to protect strongrooms and vaults in banks and safe deposits.

Called "Burgofon", it will detect attempts to break through strong-room doors, walls, ceilings, or floors at the very beginning of an attack, before any hole is made. It will also detect attempts on doors by explosives and most other means. No modification is necessary in the strongroom's structure. Said to be simply installed, it will operate over long periods and should be free of false alarms. The system may be connected to any form of alarm, audible or "999," etc.

Demonstrations are planned for early November.

Late News

BANK SAFE RAID INTERRUPTED

The chance visit of a businessman to leave money in the night safe disturbed a safe gang at a Bank of Scotland branch in Bridge Street, Glasgow, on 24th October, and they left unsuccessful after the lock jammed.

The thieves had set off explosives against the safe, but the caller noticed smoke emerging from the night safe. He called the fire brigade. It was found that the bank had been broken into and sacks and clothing packed round the safe to muffle the explosion. The thieves gained entry to the bank by smashing a window.

Police found an attache case, several sticks of gelignite, detonators, and other equipment.

SUB-P.O. SAFE BLOWN £2,300 Taken

Using mailbags to deaden the explosion, thieves blew open the safe at a sub-Post Office in Butt Road, Colchester, on the night of 25th October. Their haul was postal orders and stamps worth £2,000 and £300 in cash. The loss was only discovered when the premises were unlocked in the morning.

Security Gazette

Personalia



Mr. Samuel Jackson

SECURITY ADVISER

Detective Superintendent Samuel Jackson of East Ham Division, on his retirement from the Metropolitan Police, has now taken up an appointment with R. Silcock and Sons, Ltd., a London firm of cattle and poultry food manufacturers.

He is their chief security adviser and will supervise five mills.

Mr. Jackson, aged 52, received 51 commendations during his career and was in charge of seven murder cases, of which only one remained unsolved.

Southend Promotions

Chief Superintendent C. Kent Sim retires from Southend-on-Sea Force on 30th November, and the following promotions have been made in consequence:

Superintendent H. J. Devlin becomes Chief Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable.

Superintendent (Class II) L. W. Poole is promoted to Superintendent (Class I); Chief Inspector A. E. Wales is promoted Superintendent (Class II); Inspector D. C. Hudson, Chief Inspector; and Sergeant R. W. G. Poole, Inspector.

November, 1959

MATTHEW BRINNAND JOINS REEVES

Reeves and Sons, Ltd., the firm of artist's colourmen, at Enfield, have appointed Mr. Matthew Brinnand, formerly Detective Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police, as their security officer.

Aged 50, Mr. Brinnand was one of the four officers originally selected to form the Ghost Squad at Scotland Yard in 1945—the section which gained such remarkable success in the drive against London's post-war criminals. Its activities formed the subject of a review in the October issue of the *Gazette* of Mr. John Gosling's book on the squad.

Mr. Brinnand resigned from the Force in 1946 and commenced private investigation and greyhound security work. Before joining Reeves he was with the L.C.C.



Mrs. Joanna Kelley

Holloway Governor

The new Governor of Holloway prison, London, from this month is Mrs. Joanna Elizabeth Kelley, formerly Governor of Askham Grange, the "open" prison near York.

Mrs. Kelley, who is 49, has had a varied career. She studied economics at Cambridge, worked in Paris, and during the war served as a welfare officer in the Admiralty. Then she joined the prison service in 1947, becoming assistant Governor at Askham and gaining further experience at Holloway before returning in 1952.

Irish Police Visit to Birmingham

Mr. Daniel Costigan, Commissioner of Garda Siochana, with three senior officers, has visited Birmingham on the invitation of the city's Chief Constable, Mr. E. J. Dodd. He stayed for two days. The other officers remained for several days longer.

Mr. Costigan as head of Eire's police commands 6,500 men to look after the 26,000 square miles of the Republic. He was especially interested in the Birmingham City Police communications system, and was anxious to see something of the city itself, for Birmingham and Dublin have several problems in common.

The invitation to Mr. Costigan was made last year when Mr. Dodd visited the Eire police headquarters.

With the Commissioner were Chief Superintendent Denis Connolly, of the Dublin City force, Detective-Superintendent Michael Wymes, head of Dublin C.I.D., and Inspector Edward Doherty of the headquarters staff.

Renfrew and Bute Changes

Following increases in the establishment of Renfrew and Bute Constabulary, Inspectors D. Cook and D. Renwick have been promoted Chief Inspectors; Detective Sergeants J. Ferrie and R. Kirkpatrick become Detective Inspectors.

AWARD TO POSTMEN

The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct has been awarded to Mr. John Hawley and Mr. Michael Farley of Leeds for their action in resisting an attempted mail van raid in December last year.

They found a car blocking the passage of their mail van at Leeds Central Station. Two of the four men with it were dressed as policemen. They asked Mr. Hawley to open the van door and when he protested he was set upon. His and Mr. Farley's spirited resistance caused the gang to make off.

Mr. Martin McLaren

Mr. Martin McLaren, a director of Burgot Rentals, Ltd., enters the new Parliament as M.P. for Bristol North-West, having captured the seat from Labour at the recent election.

EMERGENCY RADIO SCHEME BEGINS

Operation Details: Police Co-operation

THE Council of the Midland Regional Branch of the Industrial Police Association announces that its Emergency Radio Communications Scheme covering the City of Birmingham area will be in operation by the beginning of November.

The task of equipping and setting up the receiving station and of installing radio-telephones in the cars and vehicles belonging to each of the firms participating in the scheme is taking a little longer than was at first anticipated, but satisfactory progress is now being made.

Association's Concern

Before describing in detail the service which the scheme offers, perhaps it would be appropriate to mention here the origin of the Council's interest in the matter.

Members of the Council, in common with members of the Association in all parts of the country, are genuinely concerned at the information which has been published by H.M.S.O. under the title of "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales 1958". (Details: *Gazette*, September issue). The figures revealed in the returns show that for 1958 there was an overall increase of 42 per cent in crimes of robbery as compared with 1957, and from the section dealing with crimes of violence against the person it is reported that cases increased from 10,960 in 1957 to 12,137 in 1958. In the past 20 years the annual figure of crimes of this nature has risen from just over 2,500 to 12,137, and current indications would seem to point to a still further rise in the present year. The

industrial police profession is particularly alarmed at the very serious rise in crimes involving attacks upon persons carrying money between banks and industrial and commercial premises. As the representative body of the profession, the Industrial Police Association approaches this problem from two standpoints. First, it is vitally concerned with the personal safety and wellbeing of its members who in the normal course of their duties expose themselves to the increasing danger of attack; and secondly, it is interested because under sub-para (b) of Article 2 of its Constitution and Rules the Association pledges itself to "promote and make more effective security measures in industry and commerce, etc."

Security Measures Studied

A detailed study of the security precautions taken by a wide cross-section of industry in the collection and carrying of money showed that in general most of the larger industrial and commercial concerns were already taking all or most of the precautionary safeguards which can be employed, such as equipping cars and vehicles with additional and special internal door locks, automatic ignition isolation switches, automatic audible alarms, devices for securing money boxes or bags to the vehicle, and special arrangements for securing the boxes or bags to the men who carry them from the banks to the vehicle. In addition to all these measures, and others of a more novel character employed by some organisations, all the larger firms employ specially picked and highly trained observation and escort squads when engaged in the collection and carrying of money.

The Council were satisfied that in most cases all these necessary precautions were being most carefully observed, but it was unanimous in agreement that one important safety link was in nearly every case missing—some means whereby, in case of need, the occupants of the cars or vehicles carrying the money, and particularly the occupants of the escorting car, could communicate with a point from which assistance could be obtained.

Communications Essential

To provide this vital means of communication it was clear that the radio telephone would have to be used. The Council then set about the task of drawing up a draft scheme which, subject to agreement being reached with all the parties interested, and subject, of course, to sufficient support being received from industry and commerce, could be set up in the City of Birmingham area as a pilot scheme. After much discussion in the preliminary stages, and with the very valuable advice and assistance which was constantly available from the Chief Constable and his staff, from Pye Telecommunications Ltd., and from one or two large industrial firms, the scheme has been developed and is now in service, providing yet another vitally important safeguard for the personnel engaged in the dangerous yet essential job of collecting and carrying money from the banks to the

(Continued on page 366)

Security Gazette



The I.P.A. receiving station showing the inter-communications equipment and '999' link, with background map information.



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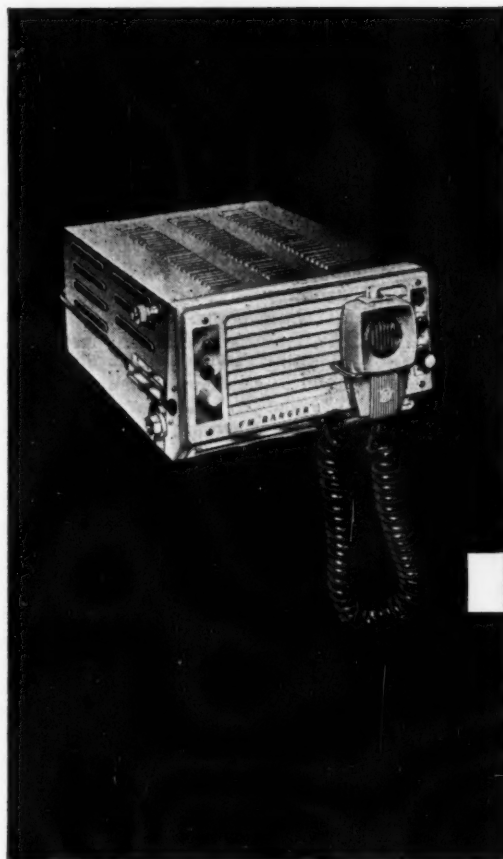


The I.P.A. receiving station showing the inter-communications equipment and '999' link, with background map information.



PANORAMA

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The Pye "Ranger" radiotelephone has been designed to meet the specifications of the American F.C.C. and the British G.P.O. It is suitable for use under all climatic conditions and is vibration proofed. Its features include light weight, low battery drain and low cost of installation and maintenance. Optional features are alternative channel spacing; public address and rebroadcast facility on A.M. types; and a choice of fist microphone or telephone handset. The PTC 8001/2 and PTC 2001/2 form part of a complete series which include boot-mounting types and fixed stations.

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Industrial Police Report—(Continued from page 364)
city's industrial and commercial premises.

Operation and 999 Link

The radio telephone which is fitted to the vehicles used by the firms which have so far joined the scheme can be used by the occupants of the vehicle in *any* emergency which occurs whilst they are engaged in the carrying of money. Quite apart from the obvious use which would be made of the radio telephone if the vehicle was being followed, if it was obstructed or attacked, or if it was involved in a collision or an accident, the occupants could use the radio telephone to obtain assistance in any other emergency which they might encounter such as mechanical breakdown or the sudden illness of the driver, etc.—circumstances in which the occupants of the vehicle would otherwise have to leave the vehicle to summon the required assistance.

The receiving station will be manned each morning from 7.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. for the purpose of testing; and then silence will be observed on the air from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. each day from Monday to Friday inclusive to make the service available for use in any of the circumstances mentioned above. Information received for onward transmission to the Police 999 Information Room will, of course, at all times receive absolute priority, and it is estimated that an assistance call could be passed to the police within a very few seconds of its being received. In fact it might be said that it could be passed on in some case simultaneously with its being received on the air. The receiving station will, of course, always be manned, day and night throughout the year, but use of the service by the participating firms at times outside those mentioned earlier in this paragraph will have to be the subject of special arrangements.

Charges to Firms

The services of the Midland Regional Branch of the Association in operating and manning the receiving station are free of all cost to the participating firms, and the charges which firms are called upon to pay are consequently very low indeed. Each firm entering into the scheme has to pay an initial sum of £7 10s. for having its car or vehicle fitted with the radio telephone equipment, and they have also to pay £58 10s. per year to Pye Telecommunications Ltd. for the annual hire and maintenance of the radio telephone equipment. In addition to this, each firm pays to the Association an annual sum of £20 16s. which covers the shared cost of the receiving station equipment and its maintenance. It will thus be seen that the total annual cost of participation in the scheme is £79 6s. per year.

There is one very important aspect of the service which needs to be explained and emphasised: that is, the availability of these facilities to smaller industrial and commercial concerns on the basis of a shared cost. Two or even more smaller firms may agree to share one radio telephone between themselves, and the total annual cost of £79 6s. would then be equally divided between the sharing firms. There is no limit to the total number of firms able to join the scheme and enjoy the advantages which the service offers; and when more firms participate it may well be possible to further reduce these charges.

Security Co-operation Vital

Ensuring the safety of personnel engaged in the collection and carrying of money within the City of Birmingham area, and the task of preventing potential criminals from succeeding in their efforts in this class of



Security officers in a radio car. The link to the central stations provides protection should any emergency arise.

crime, is a combined exercise which cannot succeed unless it is energetically supported by all the responsible parties. The city police force is responsible for the prevention and the detection of crime in the city generally, and the various industrial police forces have like responsibilities as far as their own factories and premises are concerned. But it ought, perhaps, to be pointed out that insurance companies have a responsibility to encourage and indeed, if necessary, make it conditional for their customers to take adequate security precautions, and they should reward by way of premium reductions those firms who take all the necessary measures to safeguard the monies they carry as well as the personnel who carry it. Industrial and commercial managements in turn should co-operate by seeking sound advice from the Birmingham Police Crime Prevention Officer, and then ensuring that this advice is carefully followed by those responsible.

The banks themselves can also contribute to this combined exercise at least in two ways—first, by making suitable advice on security measures supplied by the police available to all their customers, and by constantly drawing the attention of their customers to the vital necessity of good security in the handling of money; secondly, by improving the facilities, or in most cases providing the facilities, whereby large sums of money can be loaded into customers' cars or vehicles safely instead of having to be carried in boxes or bags to the vehicle parked in a public street, often some distance from the bank premises.

The Industrial Police Association is a vitally interested party to the success of this exercise, and it pledges its support to all or any of the above organisations, and offers to help in any way it can. Communications and information about the Emergency Radio Communications Scheme should be addressed to Mr. D. V. Young, M.B.E., 20 Wycome Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28.

Security Gazette

RAISE LEVEL OF POLICE EFFICIENCY

And Restore Corporal Punishment—Lord Parker

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Parker, expressed last month two recommendations for dealing with the present crime situation. First, he said he favoured the restoration of a form of corporal punishment. Secondly, he believed that more money should be spent on both increasing the number of police and in raising their efficiency to meet the techniques of modern criminals.

Addressing the annual meeting of the Magistrates' Association in London on 22nd October, Lord Parker referred to the "tremendous upsurge in crime" which was now "quite alarming." Appeals and applications to the Court of Criminal Appeal were running at the rate of 2,000 a year. Nor had this been in any way contributed to by any leniency on the part of the courts.

The proportion of appeals allowed remained at just about four per cent. We could not be complacent about this and say crime waves came and went and that the present one would go soon.

Next year, a million boys and girls would leave school and be looking for jobs. Only an industrial miracle, perhaps, could absorb all of them. A further increase in crime was almost inevitable.

Administrative Weakness

Discussing the approach to the problem, he said one of the troubles he saw was an administrative weakness in the detection of crime. As a judge, he often found himself sentencing a person for an offence and the person asked for a whole series of other offences to be taken into consideration.

He mentioned a recent case in the Court of Criminal Appeal which concerned a young man who had indulged in a veritable orgy of housebreaking, 66 offences. While these odds applied, the doubling of the sentence itself was not a remedy.

Police "Too Few"

"We all know the police are doing a difficult job in adverse circumstances," said Lord Parker. "But I do think and I do say that in the towns they are all too few.

"I am convinced that there must be a very considerable increase in

their numbers and in their efficiency if the ideal of the certainty of detection is to be more nearly approached. I say 'efficiency' because today, as in the past, the art of crime has increased faster than the art of detection.

"The motor car and the motor cycle are as much instruments of housebreaking to-day as the jemmy. The police are just not equipped to deal with the modern criminal."

He agreed that all this would cost money. But was not money better spent in increasing the police force and its efficiency than in doubling prison accommodation?

Lord Parker said he was a believer in corporal punishment and in short sentences. The trouble was people thought it was a bad thing, but he did not think that people who were against corporal punishment ever intended that a child should never be chastised.

Parents should be encouraged to chastise their children. He had been beaten and it did him a lot of good. Nobody suggested going back to the "cat," which was brutal and made martyrs of people. But what harm could there be in the cane or the birch?

He gave the example of a recent case in Durham where a boy threatened to put the gang onto his father after he had been thrashed for getting into trouble. The father formed a gang of his own with the other fathers. It beat up the junior gang and things had been quiet ever since.

POLICE FEDERATION SUPPORT

Lord Parker's opinions on police reinforcement were subsequently approved by the Police Federation.

For the past 10 years, the Federation said, it has persistently reminded the police authorities of their duty to fix realistic police establishments in each force and to provide more modern equipment, particularly cars, teleprinters, and other means of rapid communication.

An intensive drive should also be made to provide suitable accommodation in police stations and admini-

strative headquarters.

"The Federation is convinced that sufficient recruits of a good standard will not be forthcoming until the police authorities restore to the members of the service the level of salaries they enjoyed before the war. This they have persistently refused to do and are apparently content to see the members of forces considerably overworked."

Steps were now being taken by the Federation to compel police authorities "to face up to their responsibilities to the public by materially improving police pay and conditions of service."

Howard League Objects

The Howard League for Penal Reform, in a statement, said it regretted that the Lord Chief Justice should have made recommendations for the re-introduction of corporal punishment. "This is in contradiction to the advice of many eminent authorities, including a department committee on corporal punishment which reported in 1938."

The League also regretted that Lord Parker "should apparently have said that young offenders in gangs should be sent to prison."

"Only last week the Home Office Advisory Council on the treatment of offenders in putting forward new proposals for the treatment of young offenders specifically recommended that 'the courts should be prohibited from sentencing young offenders under 21 to imprisonment."

"The council considers that the treatment of young offenders should be primarily remedial, for the good both of the offender and of the community."

Manager Coshed in Office Raid

Two men escaped with £500 at Harrow on 26th October after attacking the Manager of Jennard's, a furnishing store. He entered the shop in the morning, took out his keys to open the safe to take the weekend cash to the bank, and was set upon by the raiders. They opened the safe and disappeared, leaving him partly tied up.

SECURING CASH IN TRANSIT

Check Your Routine From the Thief's Angle

by C. Walton

With attacks on messengers taking money to or from the bank continuing at a serious rate, readers will welcome this reminder of possible safeguards which may also serve to stop loop-holes where systems are already in operation. Mr. Walton has been Chief Security Officer of the important engineering firm of Hepworth & Grandage, Ltd., at Bradford, since 1951.



Mr. C. Walton, formerly a Detective Inspector in the Bradford Force.

THEFTS of cash in transit, a fairly regular occurrence in London, have now spread to the provinces and are posing a very real problem to those firms which have a sizeable pay-roll. The problem is simple: can cash in quantity be carried safely from bank to bank or bank to firm's premises, safely that is from the cash and personnel point of view?

As an ex-C.I.D. officer whose responsibility it is to safeguard the collection and dispersal of a large weekly pay-roll I am of the opinion that at the moment the most spectacular pay-roll thefts, as a rule, show neglect of, or lack of, thought about the most elementary principles of safety. After a study of the reports of these thefts one must come to the conclusion that in many cases the firms concerned have decided such incidents can never happen to them and have proceeded accordingly. Where this is the case any attempt at protection is inevitably half-hearted and as ineffective as there if were no protection available at all.

Examples of Carelessness

If examples are sought it is only necessary to stand outside banks on the later days of the week in any city. Individuals can be seen leaving with containers which, whilst not labelled cash, do not require to be—the character of the contents is so evident. Safety chains and wrist straps are not fastened, and often the containers are without this elementary protection. The system of transit of cash from the banks is so casual as to be beyond belief until it has been seen.

I myself know of employees who openly go on foot to the bank and are met by a taxi-cab outside after getting the cash. The driver of the taxi is

not known to the employee and it is not difficult to imagine what could happen in such cases. I have seen cash from the bank loaded into an unattended vehicle and unloaded again when it was found to be the wrong vehicle!

When the transport of cash, so important a job, is dealt with in such a haphazard manner, then thefts must increase. The fact that for a number of years thefts of this type have been confined to the London area is no excuse for provincial firms neglecting their own precautions.

The Expert's Approach

Safeguarding amounts of money above the petty cash level, in transit from bank to bank, or bank to business premises, is a job for the expert and not for the amateur who thinks he knows what is required. Whilst such an expert cannot guarantee complete immunity from attack he will be able to assure the employer of *maximum protection of the cash and the people who collect it* by ensuring the job is made as difficult as possible for the potential thief.

Who is the expert who can advise upon or arrange protection for cash in transit? How does he qualify? The answer is an experienced police officer, serving or retired, who has spent most of his working life in contact with criminal classes, or the specially trained industrial policeman or security officer. The knowledge the former has gained of criminals' qualities, habits and ways of life, makes him a fit person to forecast the way they will act in a given set of circumstances. He in fact will view any job as the criminal would view it. If proof is needed as to the value of these officers it is only necessary to point out how the big names in

criminal detection are engaged immediately they leave the police service. Equally, security officers generally in industry can be expected to have closely studied police advice and to possess the necessary background for the full implementation of recommendations.

1. Safety in Numbers

In working out any plan to protect money in transit, the first thing to realise is that there is safety in numbers. Any expert in such matters will tell you that the criminal is not fond of working with large gangs. The smaller the number of accomplices, the less the risk of detection. This being so, protection forces should be used in such a way as to compel the potential attackers to use as many men as possible. It appears sound common sense to assume that if sufficient men are available for protection an attack will not be possible or at least will be unlikely.

2. Choice of Vehicle

In the choice of vehicles for carrying cash there may be some variance of opinion as to the type to use. I have no misgivings when I advise the use of a vehicle readily identifiable as the property of my employers as against using a plain vehicle. I am firmly convinced that large numbers of people know when and where we collect cash and I see no useful purpose in not taking advantage of their knowledge. A readily identifiable vehicle, if stolen, would have to be abandoned quickly, with better chances of tracing the route taken, etc,

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whereas a plain vehicle could be driven safely away or to the town where the thieves reside with a change of plates.

3. Use an Escort

Where a considerable amount of cash is carried the expert will undoubtedly advise the use of more than one vehicle. A single vehicle and its occupants can quite easily be immobilised by collision or obstruction—and when that happens no guard is available. I suggest it is good practice to use a following escort vehicle with a clear plan to operate if the first vehicle is interfered with. By this means the cash is under supervision from outside and the potential thieves would require to double their forces in men and vehicles.

4. Question of Routes

When considering the routes to be followed by the cash-carrying vehicle, the expert should advise a variation in the roads and streets as much as possible. But he should also be cautious and add that route variation can be overdone. If a route is through a densely populated area it would obviously be unsafe practice to vary it to unpopulated routes where an attack could be made without interruption or observation. The protection afforded by residents and bystanders who know who you are and the job you are doing, should not be underestimated.

5. Value of Containers

Containers for the cash in transit should be given some thought. Where possible they should either be secured to the person carrying them or, especially if the journey to be made is of some distance, secured to the vehicle in such a manner as to make separation very difficult. This vehicle installation is a valuable safeguard since the thief has to penetrate into the vehicle itself. Certain security firms now specialise in the manufacture of containers. For those employers whose cash collection is limited, there is available for instance a leather carrying case which is attached to the person carrying it in such a manner that if it is snatched the contact is broken and a powerful siren is actuated. This siren cannot be stopped without difficulty and is guaranteed to discourage a thief from keeping the case in his possession any longer than he is obliged. The holding capacity of the case is limited and whilst an answer to this could be

more than one case, each case used means one more man and increases the problem of guarding.

Arming the Messenger

The main problem of any person responsible for safeguarding money collection and delivery however is the personal protection of those engaged in the transporting. If public opinion, or at least that section of it with which I come into contact, can be relied upon, Parliament made a serious mistake when the Act authorising corporal punishment for certain crimes was repealed. Public opinion is reasonably solid in believing that the answer to violence at the time of a robbery is violence applied to the criminal if apprehended. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the present situation I believe I have sufficient knowledge of human nature to realise that if the punishment were to fit the crime, we would have less crime. I, like many others, feel that if my job puts me in a position where I can be hurt by a potential thief then I aim to have at least a chance of hitting back. Not for one moment would I advise the provision of firearms for security guards. Misuse and retaliation could be fatal to innocent people but if a pick-axe shaft is the order of attack it could also be the means of defence.

A Routine in Practice

Whatever the reason, the fact is that attacks upon cash in transit are on the increase. It is apparent that information of cash movements is being gathered from many sources, some of them not known to security undertakings, and forwarded to reasonably well-organised criminal organisations who study the security arrangements from all angles. Separating cash from its rightful owners is an operation planned to the minute, each man knowing what he must do and when he should do it. Protection of money in transit should be just as carefully planned. Lack of a plan could be fatal to the cash and the person carrying it.

Any precautions taken should have due regard to human failings, the principal failing being a sense of false security because it may never happen to you. In my own case I attempt to provide against possibilities by ensuring our vehicles are never left unattended whilst loading, carrying, or unloading cash. Any vehicle whilst loading or unloading cash is blocked by the escort car. The



A security officer with the dog escort used by the author's firm.

money container is secured to the person carrying it whilst he is in the bank, and this position is maintained until we are secure in our own premises. The keys to the containers and the carrying straps are in the possession of someone in the escort vehicle.

The escort vehicle carries in addition to security personnel a large dog which can be guaranteed to attack on word of command. So far as possible the vehicle being escorted is in sight the whole time, and the reception end of any cash transfer is kept under observation to prevent organised obstruction. We do try to see ourselves in fact as the potential thief will see us and act accordingly.

If we are attacked whilst transporting cash we have at least the knowledge we have done our best. We hope that should it happen to us we shall have profited from the mistakes of others and others may learn by ours. But nothing I have written is intended to scare anyone except the would-be attacker. There is in all these precautions no place at all for fear. They are carefully thought out, they are always subject to review in the light of known conditions and the advancement of security safeguards, and they form a routine carried out without difficulty or tension. Whether the advice is adopted or not is of course a matter for the reader. Meanwhile we ourselves go ahead maintaining our motto: "Be prepared".

CRIME REVIEW

October this year will have a certain historical significance as the month of the huge jewellery raid which outshadows all the remaining items put together. The comparative failure of gangs against safes is an encouraging trend, but it may explain the tendency for more attention to be given to property raids on warehouses and transport.

LONDON £250,000 JEWEL RAID

Highest Loss on Record: Hauls from Four Shops

A series of raids, remarkable for the skill of their planning, on four London shops of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Association in the week-end of 11th October gained the thieves a total haul estimated at £250,000. The thefts were in the form of jewellery, with a small amount of cash also taken.

Checking on the value of the stolen property is still taking place.

Basic Method

The tactics used by the gang are not yet fully known. The coup is believed to have taken place between 8 p.m. on Sunday the 11th and 8 a.m. next morning. The basic method of the thefts was however as follows:

The padlock of the shutter at the Association's shop at 68 Piccadilly was broken and, after the gang was through the gate, was replaced. The shop was entered and the safe opened. At this shop contents worth about £40,000 were taken. The safe was packed with gelignite but this was not set off. How far this was a blind is uncertain.

At Burlington Arcade, members of the gang managed to get over the iron gates at the North end (the nearest to the Association's shop), open one of two doors by key, and also open the safe by key, taking about £60,000 worth of stock.

Thirdly, the shop at Oxford Circus was similarly entered. Here three safes were opened, two on the ground floor and one in the basement. The loss at this branch is estimated at about £130,000.

Finally, members of the gang entered a fourth shop—Arthur H. Drew, Ltd., at 139 Victoria Street, owned by the Association—by breaking in from the rear basement. They managed to open the strong-

room and stole property worth about £15,000.

Question of Keys

The ability of the gang to enter these premises so easily may indicate that they had duplicate keys already made. Reports that the gang were able to tour the shops after finding a set of duplicate keys at Piccadilly for Burlington Arcade and then at the Arcade for the Oxford Circus branch, and here for the Victoria Street shop, may not necessarily give the proper picture. The gang may also have worked from branch to branch or split up for separate jobs. In either case they managed to work without arousing suspicion in four different places, which must have made the chance of discovery at some stage increasingly high, particularly if their vehicles were present in the neighbourhood of the raids.

Security Measures

The first impressions that the Association had no system of security or of alarms, the *Gazette* is informed, is not accurate. Certain security measures were in existence. The security of the Burlington Arcade shop is also set within the security of the Arcade as a whole, which is looked after by the property owners, a leading assurance company. A guard is maintained by day and night, centred on a lodge at the South or Piccadilly end.

A reward of £10,000 for information has been offered by Toplis and Harding, London assessors. This is believed to cover the £100,000 of jewellery insured by the Association. The remainder of the losses were held for other people.

The Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Association should not be confused with the former Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Ltd., which is now known by the name of Garrad and Co., Ltd.

SHOTGUN ATTACK ON LONDON BANK

An unsuccessful attempt was made by a gunman to seize cash at the counter of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Aldwych, London on 7th October. He was largely foiled by the action of the manager, Mr. Woodford, but a cashier narrowly escaped serious injury when the gun was fired.

The manager said in his description of the incident:

"I noticed the man standing in front of the teller. Sticking out from under his right arm was the butt of what I thought was a rifle.

"I realised something was wrong and was only a couple of yards away, so I jumped on the man's back. At the same time the cashier put his hand through the bars of the grille and forced the gun-barrel upwards."

The cashier said: "I was writing at my counter when a voice said: 'If you don't hand over the money I'll blow your head off.' I looked up and saw the rifle barrel pointing at me through the bars. Suddenly, Mr. Woodford was on the man's back.

"Before realising what I had done I grabbed hold of the barrel and tried to pull the gun away." As the rifle was level with his ear the trigger was pulled and the pellets just missed his head.

Policemen outside the bank were called in whilst the man was overpowered by the bank staff.

Police Whistles Alarm

A few days previously, an armed bandit failed in a hold-up at a Midland Bank branch near Baker Street, London. The cashier blew his police whistle as an alarm when the man pointed his gun, and a woman customer entering the bank helped with her screams. The bandit panicked and ran away.

Safebreakers Fail

A gang also attempted to blow the door of the strongroom at Barclays Bank in the High Street at Southampton at the beginning of October without success. Although on the premises for some hours they jammed the door and also failed to cut through the back of the night safe.

Security Gazette

SAFE RAIDERS FAIL

Four Abortive Attempts

Three safe raids failed in a single night in and around London in the early hours of 22nd October and a fourth on the next night.

At the Stepney branch of Barclays Bank one gang spent several hours with oxy-acetylene cutters burning out a strong room lock—only to find that they had operated on the wrong door. It led to piles of ledgers, documents and books. Then they set to work on the adjoining metal door behind which were the thousands of pounds they sought—money for wages waiting for bulk withdrawals by firms next day. But they had not enough gas to finish the job and left empty-handed.

At Lloyds Bank in Chequer Street, St. Albans, another gang blew a two-foot hole in the front wall trying to open the night safe with gellignite. Policemen on their beats heard the explosion and soon a cordon was thrown round the building which is opposite the Town Hall. They climbed to the roof by ladder brought from the nearby fire station and discovered that an unsuccessful attempt

had been made on the lock of the door leading to the strongroom. Escaping through a window at the back the raiders left intact cash and securities worth £10,000.

On the same night a gang was disturbed while at work on a safe at a builder's yard in St. John's Road, Wembley, owned by Eastwoods, Ltd. The safe had already been moved to one of the firm's lorries where it was left when the robbers decamped.

An attempt to force the strong-room of the National Provincial Bank in Goswell Road, Clerkenwell, London, on 23rd October also failed. Cleaners found the premises had been entered.

Tanganyika £100,000 Raid

BANK raiders escaped with £100,000 from a branch of the Standard Bank of South Africa at Mwanza, Tanganyika, on 18th October. The money, mainly in new £5 notes, belonged to the East African Currency Board.

The raiders entered the bank by chipping through a thick concrete roof reinforced with steel bands, and

police sources thought they might have been inspired by the film "Rififi"—recently shown in Tanganyika—in which robbers use a similar method of entry.

The police completely sealed off the town of Mwanza. Road-blocks were set up and a dragnet was spread all over the area. Every police force in East Africa was put on the alert.

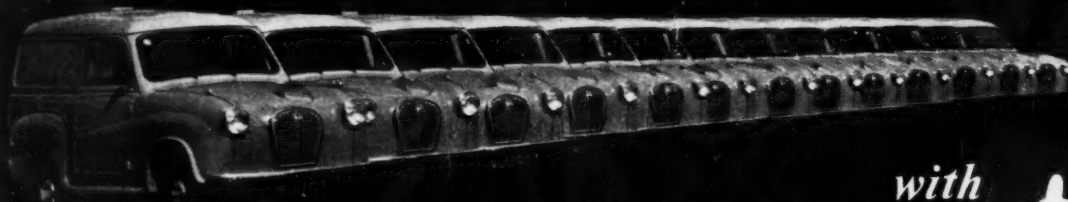
A week later, on the 26th, a quarter of the cash was recovered and six Africans detained in a night search in the Mwantia area.

The raiders are believed to have lowered a child or dwarf through the 9in. and 18in. hole they chipped in the strongroom ceiling.

Bogus Policeman Raid on sub-P.O.

Two men, one of them dressed in a "police" uniform with the number P.C. 121, knocked at the door of a sub-Post Office at Farnborough, Hants., on 1st October, overpowered the postmaster and attempted to open the safe. They failed and left with only £25. The postmaster was struck with a revolver and he and his wife were tied up whilst the raiders carried out the raid.

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BURGOT RENTALS LTD, 26 WESTBOURNE GROVE, LONDON, W.2.

£5,000 Taken from Sub-Post Office

A galignite gang successfully raided a Newcastle Sub-Post Office on the night of 16th October, escaping with more than £5,000 in cash, postal orders, stamps, and savings certificates. The safe was blown.

This was the third attack on a sub-Post Office in the city in recent weeks.

Specimen Property Hauls

The gangs seem to be giving rather more attention to disposable property taken from warehouses and transport. Some specimen instances are given here of October raids.

MERCURY WORTH £6,000 STOLEN

In a raid last month on a warehouse at Harlow, Essex, thieves stole a load of mercury valued at £6,000. They broke into the warehouse through the glass roof and then immobilised the burglar alarm.

The mercury, contained in metal bottles and weighing more than three tons, was then carried to a waiting vehicle.

It belonged to Entores Ltd., metal merchants, of City Wall House, Finsbury, who lost £4,000 worth of mercury during a raid some months ago on their King's Cross warehouse.

An official of the firm said later: "The thieves find that mercury is a safe thing to steal—it cannot be identified once they get it out of the bottles."

Watches and Mink

Thought to have gained entry through a ventilation shaft, a gang took a haul of watches worth £1,000 from the warehouse of the Wulfruna Mail Order Co. Ltd. at Wolverhampton Airport, Pendeford, on 4th October.

And on the weekend of the 6th, mink coats and stoles worth £14,371 were stolen from a furrier's in Brook Street, Mayfair, London. The thieves made their entry through a hole in the side window.

£5,000 worth of gin was stolen during the week-end of the 18th from the Metropolitan Bonded Warehouses Ltd. premises in Crosswall, London. It seems that one of the thieves hid in the building.

At Maidstone on the 15th, about 100 refrigerators worth £8,000 were taken by a gang which broke into the warehouse of Prestcold Ltd.

Smithfield Market, London, was another target. There a lorry loaded with 100 hinds of beef was stolen. The meat was worth £2,500. It was so large a quantity that it would have required either immediate sale or quick refrigeration.

Twelve tons of butter were taken at Pangbourne, Berks., on the 16th. It was carried on an eight wheeled lorry and was valued at £6,000. Police Constable John Atkins of Hounslow police station recognised the lorry later on the Great South West Road and two men were detained.

EXPERTS FRUSTRATED

Thieves whose technique of safe-blowing was of high order blew open a strong-room and a safe at the offices of the Thames Conservancy Board on the night of 6th October, but all they found were ledgers and records. The explosions were not heard, and a cleaner discovered the raid next morning.

After the Takings

A gang which had hoped to find the takings of the Manchester United and Real Madrid match at Old Trafford managed to break into the club's office on 1st October. But the cash, some £16,000, had been safely banked immediately after the game.

WATCHMAN COSHED £1,000 TAKEN

Three young men succeeded in a recent raid on a Gateshead factory in escaping with a cash box holding £1,000 in wages for night shift workmen. The incident was at the premises of Wright, Anderson Co. Ltd., engineers.

The men attacked a watchman and an assistant night foreman with coshes inside the factory, causing head injuries and shock which required hospital treatment.

Street Attacks on B.T.C. Staff

A British Road Services' official was attacked last month as he left the Westminster Bank at Western

Avenue, Ealing, with cash in his briefcase. He and a driver were struck with cudgels by four men but he managed to retain a grip on the case. Then as the bandits ran to a waiting car, the driver rammed it with his truck. They ran off empty-handed.

Then on the 9th October a British Railways cashier was attacked and robbed by two men outside his office at Euston station. Fortunately his briefcase contained only insurance cards.

The bandits punched the cashier in the face and snatched his briefcase. Then they ran to a waiting car.

LONDON CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES RAIDED

Various attacks on safes at the premises of Co-operative Societies in the London area—usually dairy depots—have been recorded in the *Gazette* over the past year.

Another spate took place at the week-end of 18th October, a total of more than £4,000 in cash being stolen.

A gang got £1,800 from the South Suburban Co-operative Society offices, The Broadway, Stoneleigh, and £470 from the same society's bakery in Lintons Lane, Epsom, Surrey. Oxy-acetylene cutting equipment was used on the safes in both places after entry had been gained by forcing a door and window.

At the London Co-operative Society dairy depot, Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, two safes were burnt open and a total of £1,800 stolen. The thieves forced a door and cut the burglar alarm wires.

A safe in a Hammersmith dairy of the London Co-operative Society was also cut open with oxy-acetylene equipment during the night of the 24th and more than £1,000 stolen.

Scotland Yard believes that one gang is responsible for most of the thefts during the past 18 months, if not for all. The methods of entry are almost identical and when a safe has to be opened oxy-acetylene equipment is always used. One reason for the gang's success is that they have been going for safes containing normally only a few hundred pounds, but they have been doing it regularly instead of trying to make a big haul at one attempt.

Security Gazette

EX-SERVICE RECRUITS

We are pleased to publish the following information on the availability of ex-servicemen for security duties which we have received from the Director of Resettlement at the Ministry of Labour.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Ronald Ivelaw-Chapman, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.F.C., writes:

I WAS recently reading a copy of the *Security Gazette* and reflecting on the problems which managements must face in obtaining recruits of the right calibre for security work of all types. Obviously, those retiring from Police Forces throughout the country provide one excellent source of recruitment, but I was led to wonder whether another source—those retiring from the Services—was at present adequately used.

My impression was that there is at present a need to recruit more younger and middle-aged men for this type of work, and that the basic qualities which were essential were those of loyalty, discipline, and honesty. These are the qualities which any man must have if he is to succeed in a Service career today.

I have been directly involved in the task of resettling ex-servicemen in civil life since I was appointed as Director of Resettlement in the Ministry of Labour two years ago on my retirement from the Royal Air Force. I am therefore able to say with confidence that ex-regulars have proved in the past that their basic qualities can be of great value to civil employers, even when their Service experience has no direct application to their new work.

Excellent Calibre

The process of reducing the size of the three Services, which began in 1957, means that about a quarter of a million other ranks will be leaving the Services in the five-year period, 1957 to 1962. Some 8,000 of these other ranks will be N.C.O.s who have been prematurely retired. There will also, of course, be a continuing but smaller outflow of other ranks in the years following 1962. A few of these men may have had Service experience—in Service Police duties—which will be of immediate value to those engaged in security work. The majority will have had no such experience, but will have the basic qualities necessary for such work and, in the case of many of the N.C.O.s, will also have shown qualities of leadership which are of great value in civil employment. Few of the men will be in the older age brackets, the greater number being either younger or middle-aged men.

I am convinced that many of these men would provide admirable recruits for security work and would, after suitable training, make a substantial contribution in the industrial security field.

I think, therefore, that managements would be well advised to see for themselves the calibre of some of these men when they are considering making new appointments to their staffs. The Resettlement Service provides a network of offices throughout the country which can submit a list of suitable candidates for any vacancy. In the case of other ranks, an enquiry should be made at any Ministry of Labour Employment Exchange, or at the nearest branch of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen. Both are as near as your telephone.

In the case of more senior posts for which ex-officers might be suitable, enquiries should again be made to any Ministry of Labour Employment Exchange, or to the Officers' Association at Windsor House, 46 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

November, 1959

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bank Staffs and Security

Dear Sir,—Mr. Simmonds's letter in your September issue outlining a possible procedure may help to solve some of the problems presented to employers should legislation for payment of wages by cheque be passed.

The National Union of Bank Employees—as briefly mentioned in your June/July number—is, however, gravely concerned about the implications for bank staffs should payment of wages by cheque prove popular.

We know that the banks also realise the difficulties that would be raised in this situation.

The union has consistently asked for consultation between our union, the banks, and the Ministry of Labour to ensure that the fundamental changes involved by amending legislation to the Truck Acts shall not lead to any lowering in the working conditions of bank staffs or in the standards of banking service to the public. Earlier this month we successfully sought the full support of the T.U.C. to this effect.

On security grounds—obviously your particular interest—we find it difficult to believe that the widespread adoption of wages by cheque would lead to any effective reduction in cash grabs. The comment you published by the President of the Barrow-in-Furness and District Grocers' Association that "shopkeepers would have to carry larger sums of cash. The shopkeeper . . . would also become a greater target for smash and grab gangs on his way from the bank" is a fair one.

We have constantly stressed the importance of bank security in our own magazine. The September issue once again brought before our 50,700 members "the necessity for the use of bullion vans owned by the banks, individually or collectively, for the transport of cash and valuables." We further comment: "Our policy on this is emphasised by recent attacks. . . ."

Yours faithfully,

J. L. HORNBY, *General Secretary,*
National Union of Bank Employees.

28, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

Discretion

Dear Sir,—In the Editorial column of your September issue you justifiably criticise the lack of discretion on the part of a stationmaster who, presumably, had no Police training, for disclosing to the Press the fact that the station safe normally contained a considerable amount of money.

On Page 316 of the same issue under the heading "Chief's Neighbours Robbed" you refer to a recent series of "breaks" in Roedean Crescent, Roehampton, and say "Eight doors away from Sir Joseph's house the thief raided the home of Nat Temple".

Assuming that Sir Joseph Simpson does live in Roedean Crescent, I should be interested to hear his opinion of the standard of your discretion or, if he does not, the opinion of those people who live at the addresses "eight doors" either side of Mr. Temple.

Yours faithfully,

L. T. POTTER,
Security Officer.

Messrs. J. & E. Hall, Ltd.,
Dartford, Kent.

[The Commissioner does live in Roedean Crescent. We await his judgment. Editor.]

£3 MILLION DAMAGE FROM ROOTES RYTON FIRE

Major Operation: Origin in Roof: 38 Appliances

ACCORDING to a statement by Sir Reginald Rootes, deputy chairman of the Rootes Group, the fire which broke out at the firm's Ryton-on-Dunsmore factory on the evening of 22nd September (first report: *Gazette*, September) caused damage estimated at between £3,000,000 and £3,500,000. It was one of the biggest in the Midlands area since the devastating fire at the Jaguar car factory in Coventry.

Inquiry into Cause

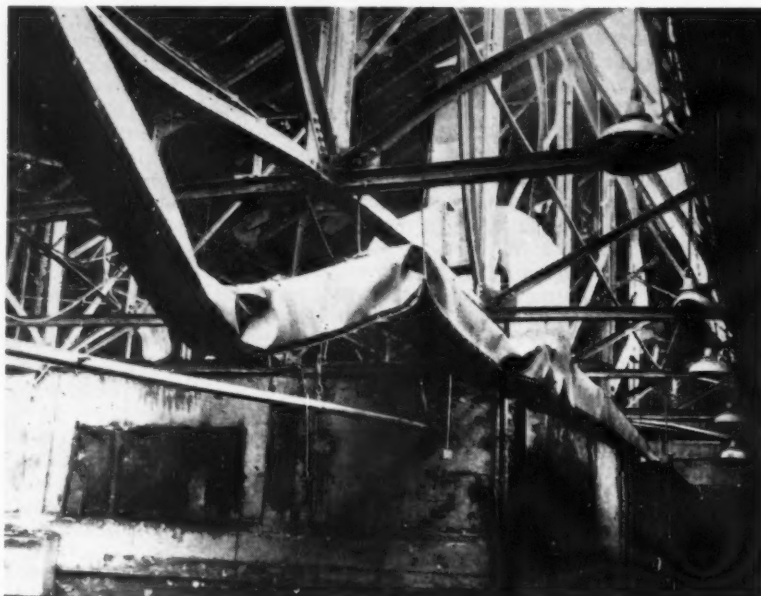
So far no specific cause has been ascertained. A report now received from the Chief Officer of Warwick County Fire Brigade, Mr. H. S. C. Tanner, states that the fire began in the roof space over the engine bay. The roof was being painted on the underside which involved dusting down of the roof members. Sheets erected underneath collected the dust to protect workers and a three-phase track providing current for the Telpher mono-rail conveyer. A previous analysis of the dust content indicated various percentages from 75 per cent upwards of combustible matter, including paint and wax deposits. It is understood that the paint was spirit-based. The painters employed by an outside contracting firm stated that they had no cigarettes in their possession and the foreman vouched that they had been warned against smoking whilst on the job.

Investigations are now being carried out in possible causes with particular attention to the possibility of a short circuit on the mono-rail track or some other source of electrical failure, igniting either the dust sheeting or paint vapour; or possible ignition from the high pressure steam heating.

Chief Officer Tanner records in his comprehensive report:

The affected building in the factory is of single-story construction, 775' x 590', steel framed with brick walls, concrete floors, and a bitumen corrugated metal roof supported on steel trusses. Within is a two-storey brick block containing stores and administrative offices. The building is used for acceptance of stores and units which are taken by overhead conveyer to the assembly track.

It is protected by an electrical alarm system with 37 alarm points throughout the factory connecting to the Works Fire Station which is constantly manned. The works brigade consists of the Chief Officer



Damage in the assembly administrative block.

(Mr. A. Whitehouse) and six men supplemented by 20 part-time firemen from the factory personnel. At the time of the outbreak two full-time firemen were on duty with two part-time on call.

Discovery of Fire

It is extremely difficult to determine the exact time of discovery, but it is reasonable to assume that as at 1832 the fire had reached such proportions as to cause burning bitumen and molten lead from cable coverings and window flashings to fall from the roof on to works firemen, the fire must have been burning for some time.

The fire quickly involved the dust sheets and the recently painted bitumastic surface on the underside of the roof.

According to one of the painters he had come down from the scaffolding to report to his foreman. He then heard someone shout "fire," and looking up saw flames running

along the trusses on which the dust sheets were fastened, and burning portions of the tarpaulin were falling to the ground. He ran to the nearest fire alarm and gave the call to the works fire brigade. This was received at 1830 hours.

Security Officer's Action

The time is supported by a statement from a works security officer who was on fire patrol from 1800 to 1840 hours and had clocked in at a point some 100 yards from the scene of the fire at approximately 1825 hours. He was proceeding from his last clocking point to the engine assembly section, when he heard someone shouting that there was a fire. He thereupon ran and operated the nearest fire alarm. This call was recorded at the works fire station as being simultaneously received with the initial call.

The works fire brigade responded with an S.P. pump and two men, arriving at the West Road entrance

Security Gazette

two minutes later. On entering the premises they found that a large area of roof over the engine receiving bay and central goods receiving stores was well alight and that burning bitumen falling on to combustibles had caused a number of fires in the stores area. Whilst one member of the crew got to work with a hose reel from his appliance, the other left the fire to call for further assistance. He made his way to No. 2 Gate but found that the telephone there had been put out of order by the fire. He then obtained a lift on a motorcycle back to the central fire station, where the watchroom attendant, a part-time member who had responded to the initial call, requested the main P.B.X. to call the local authority fire service.

Well Alight

In the meantime the part-time members of the Works Brigade had responded to the alarm and together with works employees they got to work from the nearest hydrants to supplement the hand appliances which were being used by the contractors employees.

The call was received at 1837 at the Central Fire Station, Coventry, who despatched pre-determined attendance of pump escape, two pumps and turntable ladder. Warwick County Fire Brigade Control received the call from Coventry Fire Brigade at 1841 and ordered on a pump/water tender from Rugby to complete the first attendance to this risk. The Coventry brigade arrived at 1849 and at 1852 Chief Fire Officer Boissonade made pumps eight.

The Coventry Brigade found on arrival that the roof over the stores area and adjoining engine bay was well alight and that a number of separate fires were burning at ground floor level. Jets were immediately got to work from pumps operating from hydrants and underground tanks to attack the fire from the West and South road entrances.

At 1905 Assistant Chief Fire Officer Capron of Warwickshire Brigade arrived and after discussion with Chief Fire Officer Boissonade made pumps 15 and requested three additional officers.

At this time the fire had developed to such an extent that great difficulty was experienced by the firemen in getting into the stores area where it was necessary for branchmen to use breathing apparatus. The fire in the

roof had broken through at one point over the two-storey office block and extended internally along the ridge of the north-light constructed roof to a point some 600 feet from the point of ignition, causing burning bitumen to drop on the rows of partly assembled motor cars and ignite those in the production line of the open or convertible type.

14 Jets

At 1920 hours Chief Fire Officer Tanner arrived on the fireground, made pumps 25, and took full control of fire fighting operations. The fireground was surveyed and senior officers delegated specific sections of the affected building. At this time there were nine jets in operation and it became necessary to institute a water relay from the River Avon on the far side of the A45 dual carriageway. A relay of 770 yards was completed supplying two of the underground static tanks, one on each of the opposite corners of the fireground. This relay was quickly duplicated and by 2015 hours was supplying 800 gallons per minute to the fireground.

By 2030 hours 14 jets were in operation from six pumps working from static water and hydrants, together with two jets direct from hydrants. The "Stop" message was

circulated by Chief Fire Officer Tanner at 2234 hours.

Damage

About one-eighth of roof covering material and whole of central goods receiving stores and assembly administrative block were severely damaged by fire, heat, and water. About one quarter of the car assembly track, car bodies and components on it, and roof above, were slightly damaged by heat, smoke and water.

The only part of the roof underlined with soft fibre board was that covering the two-storey offices stores block. Here the greatest degree of structural damage was noticed.

There were no manually- or heat-operated ventilators in the roof space affected. The much needed ventilation for the smoke and fumes was provided only when the timber supports of two large fans burnt through allowing them to drop to the floor.

Appliances in Attendance

In total, 38 appliances, 17 officers, and 145 firemen were mobilised from Warwickshire, Coventry City, Northamptonshire, and Leicestershire and Rutland Brigades together with firemen from the Rootes and the nearby factory of Armstrong Whitworth.

TWO HAWICK TEXTILE MILL OUTBREAKS

£750,000 damage: No Sprinkler Protection

Considerable losses were caused by two fires which broke out in September at the textile mills respectively of J. Turnbull & Sons, Ltd., and Wilson & Glenny, Ltd. The first was on 10th September and the second on the 17th. Damage amounted in the second instance to an estimated £750,000.

In each case the premises were unsprinklered and no form of automatic alarms had been installed.

Reports have now been received from the Firemaster of the South-eastern Fire Brigade. Mr. A. B. Craig, O.B.E., writes:

The fire at the premises of Wilson & Glenny, Ltd., was in a yarn store which formed a gallery at first floor level above a weaving shed. It was discovered by an employee who went to withdraw yarn. He investigated a crackling noise which he heard and found the fire in the roof. With other employees he tackled it with extinguishers but after a few minutes, realising it was beyond the control of first-aid appliances, he informed the

works office who called the brigade.

The call was received at 16.09 hours. Two pumps were turned out from the retained station at Hawick but it was evident that the fire had secured a firm hold and pumps were brought up to six. It took until 18.13 hours before control was gained, using 13 jets from open water.

Some delays occurred in calling the brigade whilst the fire was being tackled with extinguishers and there is evidence that the fire was seen through the roof at about the time the brigade was called.

The buildings were of old construction ranging from the late 18th to mid-19th century. They were of various floors up to five with stone and brick walls, approximately 300 ft. by 300 ft., possessing wooden floors and unprotected internal cast-iron columns. Of the buildings 80 per cent was destroyed by fire, and 90 per cent of the contents was also destroyed by fire. Adjacent houses and industrial premises were exposed to risk.

(Continued on page 377)

FINE FIRE ACTION SAVES A. V. ROE FACTORY

Security Measures in Force

Estimated Damage of £1,000,000

Extremely serious damage to the A. V. Roe, Ltd. aircraft factory at Chadderton, when fire broke out on Saturday evening, 3rd October, was averted, reports now show, by the combined operations of four brigades from Lancashire, Manchester, Oldham, and Rochdale. Their work has been described as a "marvellous" stop, despite shortages of water caused by the drought. Even so, damage to the factory has been estimated at £1,000,000. The main assembly line and drawing offices were saved.

Police Control

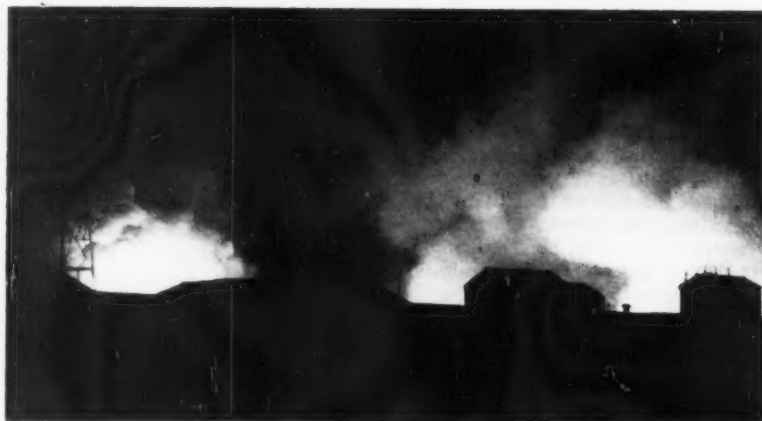
In view of the security character of the factory, the usual police control of the crowds was augmented by reinforcements from Lancashire County and Manchester City Forces, in addition to the works security force under Mr. Roberts, formerly Chief Detective Superintendent with the Lancashire Constabulary. These threw a cordon round the area and all entrances were strongly guarded.

In False Roof

A report from Chief Officer A. E. Bowles, M.B.E., of Lancashire Fire Brigade, states that it would appear that the fire lay undetected in a false roof space for some time and was later assisted by non fire-resisting building materials. By the time it was discovered, it had obtained a good hold.

"The call was received at 2059 hours after the Works Police had been informed of the fire by a passing bus driver. The first appliances arrived at the incident at 2105 hours and the fire was brought under control at 0055 hours on the 4th October.

"Fifteen pumps attended together with four special appliances. The Fire Brigades involved were Lancashire County Fire Brigade, Manchester C.B. Fire Brigade, Oldham C.B. Fire Brigade, Rochdale C.B. Fire Brigade and Salford Fire Brigade. At the height of the fire, 20 jets were



A night photograph of the A. V. Roe factory blaze which required high fire-fighting skill for its control. The flames attracted large crowds to the scene.

in use and two No. 2 foam making branch pipes.

"The fire was confined to part of the single storey section, an area of about 76,000 sq. ft. being actually involved and a further 94,000 sq. ft. of roof was damaged by fire and collapse. The factory was built between 1937 and 1939 and has, of course, been modified to some extent up to the present day. Walls were partly of brick load-bearing and partly steel frame and panels.

"The roof over the affected section was mainly of corrugated asbestos sheeting and wired glazing carried on light metal trusses which in turn, were supported by unprotected stanchions. The roof was not, for the most part, lined and therefore spread of fire could not be attributed to this structural feature.

"In the course of the fire, two Manchester firemen were severely injured due to roof collapse and one is still in hospital. In addition, two Lancashire County Fire Brigade firemen were overcome by smoke and received hospital treatment. Another Lancashire fireman received a neck injury requiring hospital treatment but later returned to duty."

Reduced Pressure

Many conflicting reports circulated at the time of the fire. One first account, for instance, stated that the fire call was received by Oldham Fire Brigade, being given to them by a retired member of the brigade who

saw the glare, and that on arrival they found a large fire in the centre of the factory. Reinforcements were called in and control was taken over the operation by the Chief Officer of Lancashire.

Because of the reduced pressure in the Oldham area, a relay was required to the nearest Manchester water main three-quarters of a mile away. Crews were still in attendance on the evening of the 5th.

One difficulty was presented by a store of magnesium in the factory contained in bins 15 feet high. This was still burning on the afternoon of the 4th and was eventually extinguished by a blanket of sand.

"NO FAULT"

A newspaper report after the fire made reference to fire extinguishers not working. The servicing of the extinguishers is carried out by the firm of W. F. Wilding, Ltd. of Manchester. Mr Wilding stated in reply to the newspaper that the works fire equipment was excellent, and that extinguishers are checked fully at regular intervals by the works brigade. He said: "If any of the equipment did not work, I should say it was either improperly used or the heat was too great and evaporated the jet, making it look as though it was not working efficiently." A spokesman for A. V. Roe, Ltd. informed the *Gazette* that members of the firm had used the extinguishers and had found no fault with them.

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Textile Mill Outbreaks—

(continued from page 375)

The large amount of light wood in the wool storage racks would provide fuel for a rapid build-up of the fire, and the unprotected horizontal openings and an external timber-clad hoist shaft from the yarn store also aided a rapid spread to other parts of the factory. Although the fire was first seen in the roof timbers, there is evidence that it originated in a compartment near the top of one of the wool storage racks, but there is insufficient evidence to ascertain its actual cause.

Discovered by Residents

Mr. Craig reports on the fire at J. Turnbull & Sons:

The fire was discovered by residents in a house adjoining the works who called the brigade. It was received at 02.55 hours. Two pumps were turned out from the Hawick station and the local Station Officer, who had an intimate knowledge of the premises, immediately made pumps four as it was evident that the building was well alight. The fire was confined to a section of the factory containing the dyeing and

scouring department but here the roof was destroyed and the internal partition walls, columns, and beams were severely damaged.

The initial attack was directed to preventing the fire from spreading to other departments and an adjoining grain mill. This was attained and control was established at 04.17 hours.

There is no evidence to point to the cause but the fire seems to have originated at about the centre of the single section storey. There is evidence that the fire had built up over a long period. A policeman who had smelt wool smoke from a considerable distance and was tracing it to its source spoke of seeing the whole roof of the section go alight at once.

MORRIS MOTORS OUTBREAK

Action by the works fire brigade on 7th October, prevented extension of a fire which broke out in a wooden building from reaching the main body shop. The building was used by a contracting firm as a paint store and rest room.

FOURTH GLASS FACTORY FIRE

The fourth fire to break out at glass factories in St. Helens, Lancs., started at the works of Fibreglass, Ltd. on 12th October. There was serious damage to parts of the warehouse. A report will be published later.

Details were given in the October issue of recent devastation caused at the United Glass Bottles factory.

TIMBER BLAZE AT DOCKS

A grass fire is believed to have caused a serious blaze which broke out in a store of pit-props at King George Dock, Hull, on 9th October. The flames reached great intensity and only skilled action by the Kingston-upon-Hull Fire Brigade prevented fire spread to the entire store. The fire boat *Clara Stark* was brought into the dock to reinforce the water supply.

The store is owned by Pyman, Bell & Co., Ltd.

PUBLIC-RESPONSE AT BLACKPOOL

The crime prevention department instituted by the Chief Constable of Blackpool, Mr. H. E. Sanders, last year has gained a good welcome from the public. In his annual report, Mr. Sanders records many requests for guidance on property protection and co-operation with the police.

"I personally envisage the day arriving," he writes, "when architects and others responsible for new buildings will consult the police about security measures which should be incorporated in such buildings."

Mr. Sanders expresses his determination to provide a service of trained policemen ready to assist and advise on crime prevention.

Back from Cyprus

Mr. J. E. S. Browne, O.B.E., returns to his post as Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire on 16th November. He was seconded for duty as Chief Constable of Cyprus in February, 1958.

November, 1959

Course for Dog Handlers

A special "pilot" course at the Metropolitan Police Dog Training School at Keston, Kent, was completed last month. The purpose of the course was mainly to decide a uniform method of dog training for the country and to produce a training manual.

Herr Herman Kudoke, a chief inspector of one of the four German Customs dog schools, attended the course as an adviser at the invitation of the Home Office. The course was also attended by 12 leading police sergeant instructor dog-handlers.

It is expected that the training manual to standardise dog training in police forces in England and Wales will be ready in a few weeks. The scheme is part of the plan to extend the use of police dogs.

Not Impressed!

A gang raided a sub-Post Office at Romford, Essex, last month. Requiring ladders to help them to break in, they took them from an adjoining hall where a crime prevention exhibition was being staged. Fortunately the gang was disturbed by the post-master and fled with only £7.

Security Officers' Pay Scales

The scales of pay of security officers in Government Service are now as follows, being linked to the Departmental Constabulary rates. The national male scales have been increased to:

Security Officer

From 1st Jan., 1958 £532 to £582
From 22nd April, 1958 £555 to £610
From 20th Oct., 1958 £555 to £640

Senior Security Officer

From 1st Jan., 1958 £612 to £642
From 22nd April, 1958 £645 to £680
From 20th Oct., 1958 £700 to £755

Publications Received

The autumn issue of *Tally-Ho!*, the magazine of the Leicestershire and Rutland Constabulary, provides as usual a thorough record of the Force's activities and personnel with a very interesting cross-section of articles, both topical and historical. The magazine, edited by Sergeant R. E. Smith, with a committee of management and 12 local correspondents, must be invaluable in maintaining an esprit de corps in the Force.

MAKING FACTORIES SAFER

An Improvement but Building Accidents Still Mount

IN his annual report to the Minister of Labour for the year 1958, H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories, T. W. McCullough, notified a drop in the number of reported accidents of four per cent—from 174,713 to 167,697—though fatal accidents had risen by 14 to 665. The total number of accidents was the lowest since 1935. He regarded this as a further achievement by industry in its attempt to ensure that factories were safe places in which to work. But, added the Chief Inspector, the figures were still too high and safety must be the continuing concern of everyone, from the managing director to the youngest apprentice.

The downward trend was not, however, evident in the accident figures for building operations and works of engineering construction, both of which showed an appreciable rise.

On building operations in 1957 there were 14,568 accidents, of which 156 were fatal. For 1958 the corresponding figures were 15,017, of which 207 were fatal. On works of engineering construction the 1957 total figure was 1,924, with 31 fatalities, and the corresponding figure for 1958 was 2,329, with 51 fatalities. Since there was no appreciable increase in the amount of work of this type in 1958 over that undertaken in 1957, these figures can only be regarded as disappointing, states the Chief Inspector, and clearly show the need for more positive action by the industries concerned. He has good hopes from the training given at the centres provided by the London and Birmingham Prevention Groups. These and other centres should provide a spearhead for an attack on a very serious problem.

Fire was the subject of a special chapter in the report and was described by the Chief Inspector as a matter of continuing importance to everybody. During the year the Inspectorate had been particularly concerned with the certification of Crown factories, for which they had a special responsibility. They had continued to carry out numerous inspections of factories of all kinds to enforce legal requirements, especially

those dealing with fire escapes and fire alarm systems. In addition, he had written during the year to some 220,000 factory occupiers, inviting them to consider their own fire problems. Each letter was accompanied by a specially prepared leaflet of advice.

How Fires Originate

About 25 per cent of all industrial fires occur in wood-working factories; these, engineering factories and the textile industry are responsible for some 60 per cent of all industrial fires. Practically all the fires which cause extensive damage are started by the ignition of solid material such as wood, paper fibres of various sorts, usually in a finely divided or flimsy state, which cannot be classed as highly inflammable. Such material may smoulder for a considerable time before finally burst into flame. About 75 to 80 per cent of fires which are attributable to the ignition of solid material are discovered outside working hours only when the fire has progressed sufficiently to break through a window or the roof of the premises and so has already caused extensive damage.

Call for Greater Care

Sources of ignition have often been encountered which could easily have been eliminated or replaced by less hazardous arrangements. Various fires attributed to defects in electrical equipment could have been prevented by proper maintenance. For example, fire was caused in a cellulose spray shop when arcing.

Space-heating appliances, especially slow combustion stoves, are frequently the cause of fires, often because of negligence in installation or carelessness in operation.

A particularly dangerous device commonly found in garages is the home-made "flash" heating stove, which is run on waste oil. These appliances are extremely dangerous and a number of fires have resulted from the tank boiling over.

In very many instances, stated the Inspector, the spread of a fire to disastrous limits is attributable to undesirable structural features. In modern single-storey buildings the

risk of fire spread was greatly increased by roof linings of highly combustible building boards.

Safety in the Nuclear Age

Another subject specially dealt with in this year's report was nuclear energy. One of the most striking developments in recent years had been the introduction into industry of sources of ionising radiations which had brought many new problems for the Inspectorate.

The problem of ensuring the safe operation of reactors, together with the safety and health of all personnel employed on them has received very careful attention. The first consideration is to design the reactor as far as possible so that it is inherently safe and adequately shielded, while at the same time every effort is made in the design to cater for any foreseeable failure which might affect the safety of the persons employed on the reactor and also spread contamination to the neighbouring countryside.

To cover all such eventualities clearly calls for an extensive organisation, together with comprehensive safety rules covering normal operation and all foreseeable emergencies. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority has formed its own Health and Safety Organisation with these objects in view, and this organisation might well be regarded as a model to be studied by other potential users of reactors, states the report.

Growing Use of Radio-Isotopes

Some 560 factories now use radio-active isotopes and the number continues to grow. About 85 per cent of factories using radioactive material, excluding reactors, do so in sealed forms for gamma radiography, static elimination, thickness gauging, liquid level control, package monitoring and for calibration purposes. Most of the future uses at present envisaged, including cold sterilisation of surgical material, or of pharmaceutical products, preparation or preservation of foodstuffs and the production of chemical changes such as polymerisation reactions, will also involve sealed sources but on a much larger scale—i.e. in kilocurie units.

CLYDESDALE BANK ROBBERY CASE

Ten and Three Year Sentences

The raid on the Shettleston Road, Glasgow, branch of the Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank on 29th April involving £38,789, had its sequel at the High Court of Justiciary at Glasgow on 9th October when two men were given prison sentences. (Report of raid: *Gazette*, May issue).

They were Alexander Robert Cairns Gray, a bookmaker, sentenced to 10 years imprisonment after being found guilty of taking part in the raid and also the theft on a previous occasion of £1,954 from a bus depot; and John McKay, sentenced to three years for resetting £5,175 of the bank money.

Well over £30,000 of the money has still to be recovered.

On trial when the case opened, besides Gray and McKay, were Patrick Rice, Jean Wallace or Rice, and Hugh Kelly Mannion. Gray and Mannion were charged with, while acting with Samuel McKay and William Ferguson Rae between 1st January and 25th February, having broken into the bank and attempted to force the safe with false keys. Gray, Rice, Mannion, and Mrs. Rice were charged with having with Samuel McKay and William Ferguson Rae broken into the bank on 29th April, opened the safe with false keys, and stolen £38,789.

During the trial Rice and Mrs. Rice were found not guilty, and Mannion was also discharged after a submission that there was not sufficient Crown evidence to obtain a conviction. The first indictment against Gray and Mannion was also dropped.

Bank Official's Confession

The case aroused great interest in Glasgow for the revelation of the part played by Rae, who was employed at the bank as an apprentice, and also by the inclusion of Samuel McKay. The latter was a witness at the murder trial of Peter Manuel in the city. He was arrested after the raid but escaped in July from Barlinnie Prison and is still at large. He was also stated to have threatened to use vitriol against Detective Superintendent Robert Kew of Glasgow C.I.D.

Rae stated to the court, that after

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being in contact with Gray, he was asked to obtain impressions of the safe keys. He did this with one key and then handed two more keys to Gray who made impressions himself. Gray also possessed a key which fitted the bank's front door. Rae tried the keys on the safe but they did not fit. Subsequently he gave the safe keys to Gray for half an hour and then returned to the bank.

After the raid he "told the whole story" to the police and co-operated with them in telephone calls to Gray. He was given a parcel of £100 by a woman he identified as Mrs. Rice.

Frame-Up Charge

Gray asserted in his evidence that the statements of the witnesses constituted a frame-up by the police and denied the truth of the evidence against him.

In Parcel Office

Evidence was given by Detective Inspector Thomas Goodall that, acting on a suspicion, he found an attache case at St. Enoch Station left luggage office which contained £5,175. He substituted a directory for the money. When a man, William Marshall, who collected the case, was taken to the police station, John McKay appeared to clear him, "an innocent man," of complicity.

Lord Wheatley told the jury that they were dealing with an alleged offence of a magnitude and daring not often met in that court.

From the evidence, it appeared that certain men had walked up to the bank in broad daylight, opened the door, taken money out of the safe, discarded some and taken away the rest, closing the door behind them, and still in broad daylight.

"You may think," he told the jury, "that no matter who was responsible for this it was one of the most barefaced and daring robberies that has ever taken place in this city."

Lord Wheatley said that Gray's allegations against police officers were allegations which involved not only perjury on the part of the witnesses, but also subornation of perjury on the part of the police.

"Do you think that took place," he asked, "or is this just a desperate, despicable, and unwarranted lie?"

In the Courts

HIRE-PURCHASE DIFFICULTIES

Postmen Stole Packets

Two cases of postmen who stole packets came before the courts recently. At Perth Sheriff Court, George Lindsay, aged 35, was sent to prison for nine months when he admitted stealing seven postal packets containing £180 13s. 3d. between June, 1958, and September.

An agent said Lindsay had served the post office for 14 years, 12 of them in the higher grade. Four years ago he found himself in financial difficulties through hire-purchase and had never got his head above water since.

On 12th October, Roy Winson Towle, aged 30, of Upton, near Pontefract, who pleaded guilty to two charges of stealing from postal packets and who asked for five other offences to be considered, was placed on probation for two years. He was stated to have been in a position of desperation because of hire-purchase debts.

Convictions Not Disclosed

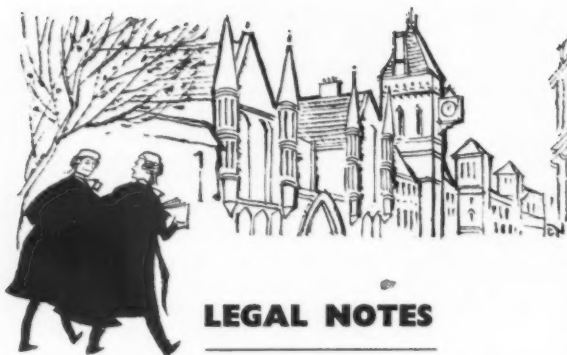
In another case a former postman, George Alexander Hambrey, aged 22, of Mexborough, near Doncaster, who pleaded guilty to stealing £1 from a postal packet and a postal packet containing a pair of nylons, was sent to prison for a total of six months on 12th October. Hambrey, who asked for 11 other offences to be taken into consideration, was stated to have failed to disclose that he had two previous convictions for dishonesty when he obtained employment as a postman.

SAFE-BREAKERS GAOLED

A 30-year-old labourer who admitted a series of safe-breakings was sent to prison for five years at Sheffield last month and a 20-year-old former grammar school boy, who pleaded guilty to receiving gelignite and detonators and taking part in one safe blowing, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

Dennis Merrill, of Wildsworth, Gainsborough, was charged with

(Continued on page 382)



LEGAL NOTES

What Constitutes Forgery?

Importance of Intent to Deceive

By GERALD R. PALING, C.B., C.B.E.

Though perhaps only security and police officers in certain specialised spheres need to possess a precise knowledge of the elements of forgery, some acquaintance with the general principles of the crime is a useful asset. Our Legal Correspondent brings out here the main points in its definition and application.

FORGERY at common law is the fraudulent making or alteration of a writing to the prejudice of another man's right. However, the law of forgery is now generally covered by the Forgery Act, 1913, and is there defined as the making of a false document in order that it may be used as genuine. The Act also defines what is a false document. It is false if the whole or any material part thereof purports to be made by or on behalf or on account of a person who did not make it nor authorise its making. It is also false if, though made by or on behalf or on account of the person by whom or whose authority it purports to have been made, the time or place of making, where either is material, or, in the case of a document identified by number or mark the number or any distinguishing mark identifying the document, is falsely stated therein. In particular a document is false:

(a) if any material alteration, whether by addition, insertion, obliteration, erasure, removal, or otherwise, has been made therein;

(b) if the whole, or some material part of it purports to be made by or on behalf of a fictitious or deceased person;

(c) if, though made in the name of an existing person, it is made by him or by his authority with the intention that it should pass as having been made by some person, real or fictitious, other than the person who made or authorised it.

It is also laid down that it is immaterial in what language a document is expressed to take effect. Forgery may be complete even if the document is incomplete or is not or does not purport to be binding or sufficient in law. Further, the crossing of a cheque, draft or other document, the crossing of which is authorised or recog-

nised by law, is a material part of such cheque, draft, or document.

It was, however, also enacted by the Criminal Justice Act, 1925, that a document may be a false document notwithstanding that it is not false in such a manner as is described in the Forgery Act, 1913. Thus the slightest alteration of a genuine instrument in a material part whereby a new operation is given to it, is a forgery.

To constitute the offence of forgery it is necessary that the making of the false document must be accompanied by an intent to defraud or to deceive.

Document Forgery

Some documents, if forged, must be forged with intent to defraud. These are set out in section 2 and they cover wills and similar documents, deeds, bonds, bank notes, valuable securities, documents of title to land or goods, powers of attorney and similar documents, entries in books which is evidence of the title of any person to any shares or interest or any dividend, policies of insurance, charter parties and certificates issued by Commissioners acting under the Income Tax Acts. Perhaps the most frequently met with of all these documents is a valuable security. A valuable security is defined in Section 18 and included in a large number of documents is a warrant, order, or other security for the payment of money or any authority or request for the payment of money or for the delivery or transfer of goods or chattels or any accountable receipt, release, or discharge or any receipt or other instrument evidencing the payment of money or the delivery of any chattel personal.

Section 3 of the Forgery Act sets out a list of documents which, if forged, must be forged with an intent either to defraud or to deceive and these range from documents impressed with the Great Seal of the United Kingdom to registers and certified copies of births, deaths and marriages, and a number of other similar documents.

Section 4 makes it an offence to forge any document not specified in the Act but in this case it must be committed with intent to defraud; further, this section also makes it an offence to forge any public document not specified in the Act if committed with intent to defraud or deceive.

Considerable confusion appears to exist among police officers as to what constitutes a public document. It has been defined as a document that is made by a public officer for the purpose of the public making use of it and being able to refer to it.

Proof of Intent

It will be seen from the above that it is most important when considering whether forgery of a particular document is an offence to decide the *intent* of the person who forged the document, for unless such intent is either to defraud or deceive, as the case may be, no offence has been committed under the Act and further, to relate the appropriate intent to the particular forged document. Thus to forge a valuable security or any document not specified in the Act, other than a public document, with intent to deceive is not an offence under the Act; so it becomes important to know what is meant by an intent to defraud.

It does not mean an intent to defraud any *particular* person for it is sufficient to prove *generally* such an intent. It is not necessary to prove that any person was actually defrauded by the forgery if from the circumstances the

jury can infer that it was the prisoner's intent to defraud. For where the intent to defraud exists in the mind of the prisoner, that is sufficient evidence, even though from circumstances of which he is not apprised, he could not, in fact, defraud the person prosecuting or though the party to whom the forged instrument is uttered believes that the prisoner did not intend to defraud him or even though in fact no person could have been defrauded by the forged instrument.

Deceit and Defraud

It has been held that to deceive is to induce a man to believe that a thing is true which is false, and which the person practising the deceit knows or believes to be false. To defraud is to deprive by deceit; it is deceit to induce a man to act to his injury. More tersely it may be put that to deceive is by falsehood to induce a state of mind; to defraud is by deceit to induce a course of action. Thus it will be seen that an intent to defraud is not confined to an intention to obtain money or goods. The point to bear in mind is: did the prisoner intend by his deceit to induce a man to act to his injury? A candidate at an examination may well defraud the examiners if by submitting forged papers he intended them to act to their detriment. Similarly, if an employee tenders a forged report with the intent that based on that report his employers will promote him to a higher post even with the same salary, he may well have an intent to defraud.

Quite apart from documents it is an offence under Section 5 of the Act to forge with either intent certain seals or dies.

It is also an offence, though under other Acts of Parliament, to forge a passport, a road fund licence, a certificate of insurance, a motor vehicle identifying document, plate or mark, certain documents made for the purpose of merchant shipping, trade marks, certificates issued under the Coal Mines Act, 1911, stamps, and telegrams. Under the Forgery Act it is an offence to utter a forged instrument knowing it to be forged as well as to demand money on a forged instrument.

Finally, it should be noted that offences under Sections 2 and 3 of the Forgery Act, 1913, have to be reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions so that he can decide whether or not he should take over the prosecution. But, if the charge be uttering or demanding money on an instrument which is punishable as forgery under Sections 2 or 3, that need not be so reported.

PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION!

Two of the staff of W. F. Wilding, Ltd., Manchester, fire engineers, were recently able to give an unusually effective demonstration of their fire extinguisher equipment. Last month as they were returning from servicing extinguishers for Derbyshire Fire Brigade, they passed a garage near Matlock just as fire enveloped a tractor. Quick action with eight extinguishers and more foam mixed in a bucket enabled them to put out the flames and stop them reaching the pumps and the 4,000 gallon petrol tank before the brigade arrived. They also saved two men endangered by the fire. Commented Mr. Wilding: "That proved how effective small extinguishers can be."

Century Arrest

An intruder arrested at a Birmingham brass foundry on 13th October, brought the number of arrests through the Burgot Rentals alarm system in the area up to 100.

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Don't trust to luck!

This charmer is poor protection against the ravages of fire or a determined burglar. But consider — **is your protection a matter of luck**, or are your fire and burglar alarms completely effective, efficient and trouble-free?

Do they give an immediate and reliable warning if danger threatens your property?

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N.B. Gents' make equally good Watchman's Clocks. Only a key is carried and the record made reveals at a glance whether all patrol points have been visited, and the exact time of visits.

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<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS

WATCHMAN'S CLOCK SYSTEMS

Tick which information is required, pin to your letterhead and send to Gent & Co. Ltd., Faraday Works, Leicester.

In the Courts—(Continued from page 379)

four offences of office-breaking and burglary and asked for 45 similar cases to be considered.

John Nicholas Buttler, clerk, of Sheffield, was said by his counsel to have originally obtained the explosives for the purpose of potholing.

Mr. Dennis Lloyd, prosecuting, said a series of safe blowings had taken place in Sheffield during the past year, a similar method being used on each occasion.

Detective Sergeant James Rowley said property worth £918 had been stolen and only £163 worth recovered.

The Recorder (Mr. G. S. Waller, QC) said it was stretching credulity to suggest that the detonators received by Buttler had been used for an innocent purpose.

10 YEARS FOR BANK ROBBER

In passing sentence on a young man charged with robbing a bank manager at Leicester Assizes on 20th October, Mr. Justice Stable commented: "There is only one way in which these armed attempts on bank managers and others can be stopped

Police made another search of the River Itchen at Southampton on 9th October for the missing jewels,

—by making it perfectly apparent to everyone that it is not worthwhile."

Colin Barnes, aged 25, a turf accountant, of Sutton-in-Ashfield, pleaded guilty to being armed with an offensive weapon and robbing Mr. Bernard Swann, of £1672, belonging to the Leicester Trustee Savings Bank; attempting to rob a branch of the Westminster Bank in London Road, Leicester; and causing actual bodily harm to the manager, Mr. Henry John Taylor. He was sentenced to 10 years on each charge, the sentences to run concurrently.

Mr. Justice Stable told him: "You were playing for very high stakes. It came off the first time and you got away with about £1600.

"You were equally successful last August when you broke into a house and collected £780.

"You have now reached the other side of the counter."

DOCKER JEWELS SEARCH Vibrator Machine in River Tests

valued at £150,000, stolen from Sir Bernard and Lady Docker's car eight months ago. (*Gazette*: March issue).

They were accompanied by Mr. Cecil Hart, of a London firm of assessors, and Mr. Laurence Veale, the inventor of a vibration reactor machine which can reveal the presence of metals and jewellery. A boat carried the machine over stretches of the river with frogmen standing by to investigate any reaction, but it is understood that no jewellery was discovered.

Frogmen searched the river four months ago after a tip that the jewels had been secreted there.

Mr. Hart took along gold and jewellery similar to the stolen property. Samples inserted in the machine after a reaction are said to indicate the type of object discovered.

The *Gazette* was informed by Mr. Hart that, though nothing was actually found on this occasion, further searches will be made at this point in the future.

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MORE SECURITY CHECKS IN CYPRUS

Turkish Groups Involved

Details were given in the last issue of the *Gazette* of continued underground activity in Cyprus. This was largely inevitable as the aftermath to the emergency, but further incidents involving the possession of arms have led to an intensification of security measures.

Two Turkish youths were remanded last month on charges of possessing arms and explosives. Each side, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot, is anxious to point to the other as being more guilty of attempts to increase tension as work proceeds on the implementation of the London Agreement. It is known that the arms handed in by Eoka at the end of the crisis represent only part of the supplies accumulated in the previous years, and since the summer there have been reports of further arms-running.

The situation has led to the search for caches to be stepped up, even though there is no desire to worsen feelings by the sight of such operations among the population.

The attribution of arms-running to Turkish groups led Archbishop Makarios to suspend talks last month on the constitutional details of the Agreement.

They were resumed after Turkish Cypriots had denied responsibility. Both the Archbishop and Dr. Kutuchuk subsequently issued appeals for arms to be handed in.

Security Gazette

A NEW ERA OF FIRE PROTECTION

Effects of the 1959 Factory Act

by R. Reader Harris

Managements and security and fire officers have a common interest in the implementation of the new Factory Act. At the recent Brighton conference of the Chief Fire Officers' Association, Mr. R. Reader Harris, M.P., who is negotiating secretary of the National Association of Fire Officers, read a paper on the effects of the Act, considering especially the duties of brigades in Fire Protection. His address is given below.

THE Factories Act of 1959 is something of an event.

It is the first piece of major legislation affecting factories for 22 years. The safety of workers in industry has always been an important subject, but it is becoming even more important in modern conditions. The 1937 Factories Act was a pretty comprehensive one, and it is something of a tribute to the legislators of 22 years ago that the 1937 Act did not require more alterations than were in fact made.

The most glaring omissions from the 1937 Act were measures to promote fire prevention on a proper scale. Virtually only one aspect of the subject was dealt with, and that was means of escape certification procedure, but this was hopelessly inadequate, and no provision whatever was made for making use of specialised fire service knowledge.

The main reason for this of course was that at the time the 1937 Act was passed the fire fighting services of the country were nothing like as advanced and comprehensive as they are today. The Fire Brigades Act of 1938 had not been passed and such effort as was put into the problem was mainly directed at fire extinguishing; relatively speaking, fire prevention was in its infancy.

The New Science

The years during and after the war have seen fire prevention become a science in its own right. These years have also seen a great advance in the art of fire extinction and in the improvement of fire extinguishing equipment.

Every fire brigade officer carrying out operational fire fighting work knows something about fire prevention, and is able to advise the public in his locality on fire prevention problems, and in addition to this almost every fire brigade has its own fire prevention department, with specialised officers who have undergone extensive training in the subject. It was therefore high time that the Government recognised the existence of this fund of knowledge and experience and made legal provision for using it.

A start has now been made. In the 1937 Act, fire was rated as sufficiently important to cover only seven pages out of 145, and four sections out of 160. In the 1959 Act, fire covers five pages out of 21 and nine sections out of 34, so the Government seems to be moving in the right direction.

The Factories Bill was greeted by the House of Commons, on both sides, with general approval. The final result was a credit to all. I think that the main reason for the conciliatory attitude of the Ministers was perhaps in some measure due to the fact that on certain aspects they were not too sure of their ground. This was inevitable in view of the fact that factory legislation is a subject which impinges on the terms of reference of many different Government departments. As at the present time the baby is being looked after by the Ministry of Labour. It is probably as good a Ministry as any to look after the

subject, but explains why such a fight has had to be made to get the functions of fire officers properly recognised and why even now after the 1959 Act, the position cannot by any means be said to be wholly satisfactory.

1937 Act's Weaknesses

Perhaps before going any further it would be as well to outline briefly how the Factories Act of 1937 dealt with fire. It said that every factory, and this did not include the smallest ones, should be certified by the District Council as being provided with means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein as might reasonably be required in the circumstances of each case. This looked all right on paper, but as things turned out 20 years after the passing of the Act, only 55 per cent. of the factories concerned had been so certified. Clearly, therefore, the procedure laid down in the Act was not satisfactory. It was furthermore a deplorable fact that many of the factories certified had been examined by local authority personnel with no knowledge or experience of fire fighting or fire prevention.

Another weakness was that the 1937 Act said that all means of escape specified in the certificate shall be properly maintained and kept free from obstruction. Unfortunately, however, district councils had far too much work to do to be able to send inspectors around factories to make sure that the conditions laid down in the certificates were being maintained.

The Act also said that if, after a certificate had been granted, it was proposed to make any likely extension or structural alteration in the premises or to increase materially the number of persons employed, or to begin to store or use explosives or highly inflammable material, the occupier should give notice in writing to the district council of the proposal. Needless to say this was seldom done. Not because factory managements are dishonest or crooked, but merely because they have got plenty else to do, and unless somebody from the local authority can keep in fairly close touch and keep the management up to scratch on matters of this sort, then obligations of this nature are liable to get overlooked.

The 1937 Act also gave the Secretary of State power to make regulations as to means of escape to be provided in factories, and it was the duty of the district council to see that the regulations were complied with. Such Regulations were in fact never made. The 1937 Act, in Section 36, laid down certain requirements regarding the non-fastening of doors, the opening outwards of doors on to staircases or corridors, and various other provisions such as the marking in red letters of windows, doors and exits affording means of escape. The Act also said that effective steps should be taken to ensure that all persons employed in a factory with more than 20 persons above the first floor were familiar with the means of escape and their use. It gave the power to the Secretary of State to

make regulations on this subject. He never in fact did so. Many of these provisions have been honoured in the breach rather than in the observance, and in making this statement I cast no reflection on the factory inspectors, whose duties are so wide as to be almost impossible for one man to carry out.

New Powers for Authorities

The first major change made in the 1959 Act is the transfer of responsibility for means of escape certification procedure from district councils to fire authorities. This is a big step in the right direction. It is going to make quite a big change for a lot of individuals in the local government world, but if the fire authorities measure up to their responsibilities, it must mean a great improvement in the whole procedure for certifying factories in the first instance, and then following up with inspections designed to ensure that the state of affairs approved in the certificate really are being maintained. There are one or two points, however, which I would like to make very strongly.

Certification Procedure

The first is that when a fire authority comes to take over the certification procedure, I hope that the work will be given to the fire brigade to carry out. There are many instances now in County Boroughs, where of course there is no transfer of powers, in which the certification procedure is carried out by some other department, such as the architect's or surveyor's. Naturally, buildings and their structure are an important consideration, but I do not believe that any local government official can provide an eye for fire hazards in the same way as can an experienced fire officer.

The second point is that fire authorities ought not now to seek to delegate their responsibilities under the new Factories Act in regard to certification procedure to district councils. The whole object of the new Act is to ensure that the fire brigade does the work, and if it were now to be delegated back to the people from whom it was removed, it would be deliberately defeating the intentions of Parliament.

Section 11 of the Act gives the Minister of Labour power to make Regulations on measures to be taken to reduce the risk of fire breaking out in factories, and such Regulations can make requirements as to the internal construction of a factory or the materials to be used. It is not easy to make Regulations of a general character because every factory has its own specialised requirements, but I very much hope that the Minister will go out of his way to try and make Regulations rather than, as seems to have been the case in the past, try to avoid having to make them.

Factory Fire Equipment

Section 12 says that in every factory there shall be provided and maintained appropriate means for fighting fire, and the Minister can even make Regulations on this subject. This is an excellent advance, but still contains one weak aspect, in that responsibility for supervising the implementation of this Section still rests with the factory inspectorate, whereas of course it ought to rest with the Fire Service. Section 17 enables a factory inspector to authorise an officer of a fire brigade to assist him in carrying out any duties relating to fire, and I think it would be a very good thing if factory inspectors delegated the enforcement of Section 12 to the Fire Brigade. It may perhaps be wondered why it was that the responsibility was not given to the Fire Service directly. I think

the answer can be found in the fact that the Minister of Labour was extremely anxious not to do anything to reduce the status or undermine the position of the factory inspector. Considerable extra powers are given to officers of Fire Brigades, and a fire officer has similar powers of entry and inspection as an inspector in certain circumstances. There is an enormous number of factories in Britain today, and Chief Fire Officers will know only too well the conditions in many of them. It is easy enough to put two lines into an Act of Parliament saying that every factory shall have means for fighting fire, but if every factory has carried out these requirements within the next ten years, I shall be amazed.

Guidance by Colour

Section 13 directly alters certain parts of the 1937 Act. Perhaps the most controversial of the alterations is the one which no longer makes it necessary for marking of fire exits to be made in red. We had quite a discussion in the Committee on what was the best colour. Some members even thought green was better than red. Everybody has his own ideas on this subject, but market research organisations have reported after surveys that the colours which make the most impression are black and yellow. I do not propose to add to the controversy, but I merely say it is a good thing that there should be power to vary the colour according to individual circumstances.

Tests of Warning Systems

Section 16 says that means for giving warning in case of fire shall be tested or examined at least once every three months, and the Minister can alter this period by Regulation for certain classes of factory. The Minister can also make Regulations prescribing the nature of the test or examination. This looks all right on paper, but one wonders who is going to check up to see that this is done. Strictly speaking, it is the job of the factory inspector. But it was stated by one Member of the Opposition Front Bench during the passage of the Bill, that in some cases factory inspectors only manage to get round to factories about once in eight years. Here again is a case where the Fire Service should take over the responsibility, though I do not deny that this would impose a strain on the organisation, and might mean an increase in staff.

New Powers of Officers

Section 17 gives an officer of a Fire Authority the same powers of entry as a factory inspector when making inspections for means of escape purposes. It also gives an officer of a fire brigade similar powers of entry and inspection when that fire officer is authorised in writing by a factory inspector. These powers of entry are of course additional to those given to officers of fire brigades under the Fire Services Act 1947, under which Act they have power to enter premises to examine them for purposes connected with fire fighting, and also to enter premises for purposes connected with fire prevention, provided they are invited by the occupier to do so. I myself would have preferred the new powers of entry for fire brigade officers to be unconditional, i.e. without the need to obtain the authority in writing of a factory inspector. In practice, however, I hope that it will not present any great difficulty.

Home Office Attitude

Having dealt briefly with the provisions of the new Act, I would like to digress for a moment to consider the posi-

tion of the Home Office Fire Service Department, and express a few opinions on what I think they ought to do. Before doing so, I would be interested to know what part they played in helping to frame the Factories Bill before it was presented to the House. I ask this question rhetorically because I do not expect an answer. I raised this question at a meeting of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council and was given to understand that the Home Office had been consulted. I suppose it would be safe to go on and to assume that if the Home Office were consulted, they expressed some views, and it would be fascinating to know what these views were. I hope the Home Office will forgive me if I say that I do not get the impression that they put up a strong fight for the position or status of the Fire Service in relation to factory legislation. I do not myself get the impression that the Home Office is continually waging a war to promote better knowledge and use of fire prevention in various walks of life. It is true that after some Back Bench pressure they pressed the requirement for fireguards, but they do not seem to me to make very much impact on the problem of promoting fire prevention generally. Perhaps they may say that it is not their duty to do so, and that their sole object is to administer the governmental aspects of the fire fighting services, and that these aspects are in any case becoming more limited with the disappearance of the specific grant. Perhaps it is not for the Home Office to undertake national campaigns directed towards the public, but at any rate I think the Home Office should be very active in pressing other Government Departments and public bodies to make the fullest possible use of the great fund of knowledge and experience in the existing Fire Services. If I may give a hint to my Home Office friends, I would like to suggest to them that they could make themselves useful now in pressing, in the right quarters, the need for fire protection of the sort which now applies to factories, to be extended to offices and other commercial premises. Some of the offices and large shop buildings that I have been in, appear to me to be death traps, and I think the Home Office has a responsibility to do something about it.

Need for Prevention Committee

This brings me to another point in Home Office organisation, and I refer specifically to the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council. This of course is a Home Office Committee, and the various representatives of outside organisations have no "rights" in the normal sense of the word. Membership of the Committee is by invitation from the Home Secretary and appointment by Warrant. The Chairmanship is taken by a senior Home Office official. The Home Office therefore have the last word on what the Committee does and how it operates. I would like to recommend now that the time has come for the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council and the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council to appoint a Fire Prevention Committee. It seems crazy, therefore, that after ten years of existence, we who sit on these Councils have not yet got round to appointing a Committee to consider fire prevention problems, and how fire prevention can be extended for the benefit of the nation. The need for a standing committee was never more clearly seen than when some of us suggested to the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council last December that they should consider as a matter of urgency the fire clauses in the Factories Bill. The Central Fire Brigades, Advisory Council set up an *ad hoc* committee which met

in January. That meeting was in my opinion a disgraceful performance, with the local authority associations showing both ignorance of the subject and an obstinate reluctance to consider any changes.

The new Factories Act is going to raise an enormous number of problems. New staff may have to be appointed and somebody has got to see to it in double-quick time that fire officers are given the necessary training.

Undoubtedly the fire prevention side of every fire brigade will grow, as fire prevention functions of a fire brigade move from the purely advisory to direct responsibility for inspection, supervision, and enforcement. There will inevitably be a tendency to treat fire prevention as a specialist job, and fire prevention officers as a race apart. I think it would be disastrous if two fire services were to be allowed to grow. Fire prevention work and operational work should never become separated. All operational officers should be fire prevention experts up to a point, and it follows that fire prevention officers should never lose touch with fire fighting.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION CONFERENCE

Speakers and Details

Some 700 applications have been received by the Fire Protection Association for the important conference to be held in London on 25th and 26th February, 1960. It is understood that the Home Secretary may attend the opening meeting.

The price of admission to the conference is £2 10s., which includes a copy of the proceedings—£2 to Association members. A dinner is being held, restricted to those attending the conference, at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, on the 25th, the charge for which is £1 7s. 6d. Information and application forms can be obtained from the Association at 31-45 Gresham Street, London, E.C.4.

Speakers at the conference will be:

Mrs. F. P. A. McLaughlin, M.P., member of the Parliamentary Home Safety Committee;

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Book Reviews

COMMUNIST THOUGHT CONTROL

The Brain Washing Machine: By Lajos Ruff.

(Robert Hale: 16s.)

THE difficult thing to understand about Communism is not its intellectual creed, which basically is a simple structure of doctrines, but the psychology and mental approach of those who practise it. This is the factor which mainly forms a barrier between the two divisions of the world—the free world and the block headed by the Soviet Union and China. The difficulty extends even to the western countries in those cases where Communist parties are strong or active within the industrial framework. The demands made on Communists by their political superiors and the mental discipline also imposed (it can often amount to a form of mental fever or perversion) often causes active Communists to look upon themselves as a sort of caste set apart from their fellow men. It was these aspects which, to a great extent, helped to build up the political division of post-war Europe and to cause public opinion in the West to look with bewilderment and fear upon the events taking place beyond the Iron Curtain.

Fearsome Weapon

Such feelings of revulsion found focus in the public trials of major enemies of the Communist Governments. That involving Cardinal Mindszenti in Hungary helped to bring to the surface the whole apparatus of Communist dictatorship. Then the treatment also given to groups of American prisoners of war in Korea brought home to people that the Communist secret police had evolved yet another fearsome weapon—that of political indoctrination and the re-creation of human character through the technique of brain washing. Little, however, was known for many years about the character of this 'science'. Observers were amazed at the manner in which men of high intelligence standing trial were found to be agreeing completely with the prosecution case and meekly submitting to the array of facts against them.

The technique has been the subject, of course, of enquiry in security and medical circles both here and in the United States, but for the general

reader a good account of it is now available in this book—a dispassionate indictment, excellently written—by a young Hungarian ex-political prisoner, arrested in Budapest in 1953 for his part in resistance work against the Soviet-controlled Communist regime. He was first subjected to brutality at the centre of the A.V.H., the State security authority, and was then given the brain washing treatment. It is this which forms the main aspect of interest in the book and it has a nightmare quality.

Breaking of Character.

The treatment was given in what the author calls the "magic room". The wall was of oval aspect with, in its middle, a large window with a snake-like grille painted blue. It was comfortably furnished, the bed, tables, and chairs being made of a strange nylon-like material which reflected a wide range of colours. Two rotating lamp shades decorated with a bewildering mixture of coloured spirals and spots projected a range of fantastic lights and colours about the room. On the walls there were also a similar variety of extraordinary linear decorations. In this strange room Mr. Ruff spent six weeks. The treatment applied to him was aimed at making him a schizophrenic case, in other words, in breaking down the normal cast of his mind and in attempting to destroy the natural and healthy basis of his personality. The purpose of brain washing is in fact first to wreck and then rebuild the person's character—to make him into another form of man. Mr. Ruff himself was in the hands mainly of one man, a Dr. Nemeth, whose approach varied from that of the scholar to the doctor to the black magic witch. The victim was drugged and a state of hallucination built up. He was then shown erotic films; imaginary situations were developed in which he thought he was actively taking part; and his mind was distorted through methods of external suggestion. That in fact the treatment failed, Mr. Ruff ascribes only to the fact that, mainly by

accident, he suddenly broke through the framework of repression by smashing the lamp on the night table. "In this moment I underwent a strange psychological reaction." Such a reaction he considers to be the only method by which the contact between the inquisitor and the victim can be permanently broken: "the magic room loses its charm." He then refused food, broke everything he could lay his hands on, and was finally pronounced to be insane by the peculiar Dr. Nemeth. Then he was sent for a term of 15 years imprisonment, a sentence which actually was terminated by the revolution of 1956.

State Within State

His description of prison life is again of value, as presenting some insight into the manner by which hundreds of political prisoners attempted to maintain contact with normality and the world outside. He has also some useful information about the life lived in prison by Kadar, the puppet Prime Minister of Hungary after the revolution. Kadar was imprisoned, despite his seniority in the Communist hierarchy, for his attachment to the cause of Rajk after the Soviet Union broke with Tito in 1949. It must seem incredible to any foreign observer that men even of political authority within the Communists' own structure of Government and control can be suddenly cast over and become themselves the victims of the machinery and the prison system they have devised. But, as Mr. Ruff says, the A.V.H. was a state within a state, as are indeed all Communist security systems.

He presents a useful description of the security system's statistical basis of intelligence. In huge buildings the A.V.H. maintained records of every person and family with which its agents came into contact, building up by minute cross reference a huge apparatus of information on people's lives, thoughts, and connections. Yet the men who ran and controlled this system were themselves, he says, mesmerised by fear and suspicion.

Human Motive

How is it that ordinary human beings can become agents of such a system? Mr. Ruff finds an answer in the lust for human power. Perhaps he is right, though his answer must seem incomplete. These Communist political security systems, at least on the Continent, have evolved from

A REFORMER IN WHITEHALL

Your Obedient Servant: By Sir Harold Scott
(Andre Deutsch: 15s.)

ENCOURAGED by the reception given to his previous book on Scotland Yard, Sir Harold Scott has now brought out a most interesting volume on the structure of the career which eventually led him to become Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. When he entered the Civil Service in 1911, only one other member of the highest class, i.e. the administrative, at the Home Office, besides himself—F. C. Johnson, who later became Receiver for the Metropolitan police district—was not a public school boy. But the changes that occurred in the atmosphere and background of the Civil Service after the First World War provided men of Sir Harold's calibre with a pretty good chance of rising to the highest ranks.

Though he became intensely dissatisfied with the material rewards of his Home Office post, and indeed in 1923 was considering resigning to escape from what he calls its former "stubborn traditionalism", it is interesting to see how the work he was offered led successfully, stage by stage, to the accumulation of extremely wide qualifications in criminal, legal, and tribunal work, which in turn made him a most suitable choice as Chief Administrative Officer of the London region in the Ministry of Home Security. Why he was chosen for this most responsible position Sir Harold himself does not know. Perhaps it was, he writes, "because they suspected that I was pretty slap-dash and unorthodox, for red tape was at a discount in that arduous year of 1939".

One of the two most enlightening sections of this book covers the

preparations made for the expected holocaust of 1939. Readers responsible in commerce and industry for civil defence will find the author's description of pre-war and war-time arrangements of great interest and value. The incendiary bomb was the biggest problem. The attack on the City of London, for example, in December 1940, was a decisive point in organisation, for it took place when the river was at low water and the firemen could not obtain sufficient water supplies. This catastrophe brought about the formation of the nationalised fire service. The result, claims Sir Harold, was without any doubt the finest fire fighting service in the world. The credit for its formation he gives mainly to Sir Arthur Dixon, whose work he also commends for bringing up to date between the wars the methods and organisation of the police.

Of perhaps more enduring significance are Sir Harold's comments on, and story of, the reformation of the prison system from the 1930s onwards. He became Chairman of the Prison Commission in 1932 after previous experience in the Criminal Department of the Home Office. The change gave him an opportunity to implement in great measure some of the reformist ideas and ideals of Alexander Paterson—"a creative force which was to effect within the next 25 years the transformation of the theory and practice of imprisonment, not only in England but throughout the world". Many of the ideas introduced by Paterson—the open prison system, the humanising of prisons themselves, and the attempt at reforming and recreating character—are again coming under criticism, even as they did, of course, before the war. This is an inevitable concomitant to any programme. But the pity is that the controversy is not guided more publicly by other public servants of Sir Harold's type and background. He himself points out the urgent need for better publicity and wider debate on this whole topic of the prison system. Progress, he believes, will come only when a more imaginative and generous treatment can be obtained from the Treasury for the prison service (a means also of attracting the

right sort of men and women to it), and by choosing the right place of attack from the point of view of prevention. This point he sees to lie in the home, the school, the club and the church. Money spent on prevention, he argues, rather than on cure "will be repaid a thousand fold".

Such a line of reasoning forms, of course, the basis of the crime prevention movement and the link exists too in Sir Harold's argument that the police and the prison service are really complementary, each having a deep interest in the success or failure of the other. "More and more," he says, "it is being accepted that the social role of the police is not merely repressive: in many ways they can help to prevent crime." Some may consider it surprising that a former Commissioner of Scotland Yard appears to look upon prevention of crime as a comparatively novel aspect of police work. Conversely, of course, his wording may be chosen carefully to indicate the 'old school's' concentration on detection. But, in either case, it is encouraging that a civil servant of traditional Home Office training can, throughout his career, show so imaginative and tolerant an outlook, and come down openly and strongly on the side of prevention as a basic ingredient in both police and prison activity.

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"Brain Washing Machine"—(Continued)
generations of political history and background and most men find employment within them as much to make a living as to satisfy any desire for authority. But the machines build themselves—yet contain the seeds of their self destruction. For a dictatorial political direction is usually the enemy of good intelligence work and what the Western world means by security is in the Communist system a corroding apparatus of political repression, thought control, and individual debasement.

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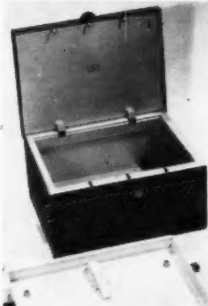


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